

TWERTON INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Friday 13th March

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I am sure that, like us, you may have some concerns or questions regarding the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. I am therefore writing to give you some information regarding how we are addressing this worldwide issue.

As you are aware this is a fast-paced changing situation and we are providing this information with the best knowledge we have to date. We will continue to update parents and carers as more information becomes available. It is our priority to do all we can to protect the whole school community.

Firstly, your support in encouraging your children to prioritise hand hygiene is greatly appreciated so that we can all take responsibility for helping to protect our community. We are reminding pupils to wash their hands regularly, especially before they eat. More importantly, we are emphasising that the best way to protect the community is to wash hands with soap and water regularly, especially:

- before eating breakfast, morning bagel, fruit at snack-time and lunchtime;
- before leaving home in the morning ;
- on arrival at school or nursery;
- after using the toilet;
- before cooking and eating;
- before and after playtime and lunchtime;
- after PE or Forest School activities;
- before dinner or supper;
- before going to bed.

We will continue to remind students of the importance of good hand hygiene throughout the day and we will provide paper tissues for children to use to wipe their noses in class.

Secondly, the current advice from the government is that anyone who has a **new continuous cough** or a **high temperature** should stay at home and **self-isolate** for a **period of 7 days**. This advice applies to parents and all family members, members of staff and, of course, children. We are also advised not go to the GP, pharmacy or hospital and not to telephone 111. Instead we should seek advice online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If anyone in your family is self-isolating please inform the school either by telephone 01225 423526 or by SMS: 07786 201170.

At the moment we have a full complement of staff and the governmental advice is for the school to remain open. In the next few weeks there may be an instruction from the government to close schools as part of their Delay Strategy in order to "flatten the curve" of new cases. In this event, we will provide as much notice as we are able to. However, it would be advisable for parents to start to consider alternative childcare arrangements.

Furthermore, if the school experiences significant levels of staff absence due to sickness and staff self-isolation, there will become a point that it will not be possible to maintain the safety of children in the school and sustain statutory levels of staffing. This is likely to happen when staff absence reaches between 20% to 25%. Where possible we will deploy supply teachers from agencies, however there is not a limitless source of supply teachers.

In the event of a School Closure, we will provide as much ongoing support as we can to enable children to carry on learning at home. We have a number of online learning platforms that the children already use both in and out of school: Reading Eggs, Reading Eggspress, Mathletics and Gooseberry Planet.

Our teaching team will be able to communicate with families through Marvellous Me and Teachers2Parents, our SMS service, in addition to making telephone calls. We will also make use of social media channels and we will upload video messages from teachers to YouTube and to the school website.

N.B. If you have not already downloaded Marvellous Me it would be useful to do so now. You can ask the school office to provide a unique code so you can register your own child on your phone or other smart device.

We are being vigilant in the precautions we are taking to protect the community. We have increased our cleaning procedures and are disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces. We have been taking advice when necessary from the Public Health England Education Helpline, while taking note of national guidance, and we will of course keep you informed if the situation changes.

You can keep up to date with national advice and information regarding coronavirus by visiting: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/13/expert-interview-what-is-contact-tracing/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

As you will appreciate this is a changing situation and we will continue to update you with further information regarding the school's operations

Yours sincerely,



George Samios
Headteacher