

Coastal Learning Partnership

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Thursday 12th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update

Following my letter of last week, it remains important that our response to this situation is proportionate: children do best in a calm environment, free from excessive worry. That said, clearly we must all take the right, sensible precautions to minimise risk. Most importantly, our schools continue to receive daily advice and updates from the Department for Education (DfE) and this advice, along with that from Public Health England, will continue to shape our response.

This is what our schools are doing:

1. Reminding everyone of the need to hand wash thoroughly and regularly.
2. Reminding everyone of the '*catch it, bin it, kill it*' hygiene advice.
3. Reminding everyone to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Making sure that the school is clean, including surfaces such as door knobs and hand-rails.
5. Contacting the DfE schools' coronavirus helpline if they have any immediate concerns.

What we ask from our parents and carers:

1. Enable your child to attend school as normal.
2. Talk to your child about the importance of good personal hygiene.
3. Contact 111 if you need advice or have any particular concerns.
4. Inform your school immediately if anyone in your family is being tested for the virus or if you are required to self-isolate.

Attendance

It is important that we carry on school life as normal, albeit with these sensible adjustments, and so pupils should come to school as normal. If a health professional such as a GP states that your child is medically vulnerable and needs to stay at home, please let your school know and this absence will be authorised. However, without a decision from a medical professional, any such absence would have to be on an unauthorised basis. We will of course keep this position under review as the situation develops further.

School closure

Schools will not consider closure unless direct advice from Public Health England requires them to do so. As a precaution, Headteachers are currently considering what work they might be able to set for pupils to undertake at home and how pupils might access that work.

Latest advice seems to indicate that children are typically less likely to be affected by the coronavirus, so we can be thankful for that, at least. We would like to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support and patience as we all continue to find our way through this situation.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Howieson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Howieson

CEO, Coastal Learning Partnership