

16th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carers,

RE: Coronavirus Update

We are receiving daily updates regarding Coronavirus and will keep you informed should the situation change.

We would like to reassure you that we continue to follow advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DFE). **We remain open until advised otherwise by the DFE.**

At present the advice is to maintain good hygiene and we are taking the following steps to reinforce this:

- Regular reminders to the children, through assembly and during lesson time, to wash their hands thoroughly
- Teaching the children to use a tissue to blow their nose, coughing or sneezing and throwing it in the bin. Catch It, Bin It, Kill It
- Introduction of hand sanitiser dispensers throughout school (we are also trying to obtain more)
- Teaching the children the importance of avoiding putting their hands around their mouth, nose and eyes
- Putting up posters to promote the above
- Staff regularly wiping surfaces/ door handles etc throughout the day
- Continued support from our cleaning team, ensuring that all areas are cleaned thoroughly and there is constant access to hot water, soap and hand towels/ dryers
- Planning what may happen in the event of school being closed in the future

Government guidance advises that anybody who is displaying symptoms of Coronavirus (a high temperature and/ or a new continuous cough) should stay at home for 7 days. This will help to protect others in the community whilst infectious.

The Department for Education has now launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. The dedicated helpline is for parents, teaching staff and education leaders to provide advice and support on coronavirus. This line complements the advice being provided by Public Health England

The helpline will be open Monday to Friday, from 8am until 6pm. It can be reached by calling 0800 046 8687. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/common-questions>

To further support a reduction in the spread of the virus, VENN Academy Trust has asked all academies to cancel any unnecessary large group meetings/ events for the foreseeable future.

I have looked at the academy calendar for the next 6 weeks initially and this applies to the following events:

Tuesday 17th March - Brooke Fundraising Group Meeting - Date to be rescheduled

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd April - F1 Easter Celebration event.

Friday 3rd April - EYFS and KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade. The Parade is now not open to parents, however it will still go ahead with just the children and staff. We will upload a video to Twitter.

If any other events need to be cancelled, we will contact you through text / Academy Website / Twitter / letter. Please check for updates.

Kind regards
Mrs Emma Levers
Head of School