

Dear parent/carer,

wingate
community
nursery
school

Re: Coronavirus

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

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

The risk is currently low in County Durham, however to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Temporarily changing lunch and snack time from self-serving to being served by an adult (to ensure good hygiene practices and minimise shared touching of utensils)
- Using disposable paper towels for hand drying, rather than a shared hand towel
- Restricting children's baking
- Teaching children how to wash their hands and supervising hand washing more closely
- Minimising additional people coming into school by asking parents/carers to drop off at the front door where possible
- Increasing our already regular rigorous daily cleaning schedule.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

The most recent UK government advice (16.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for fourteen days. As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely,

Becky