



PEEL COMMON *Community Junior School*

The Drive ♦ Gosport ♦ Hampshire ♦ PO13 0QD
Telephone (01329) 281206 ♦ Fax (01329) 230811
Website ♦ www.peelcommonjuniorschool.co.uk

Headteacher : Mr Andy Clarke
Deputy Headteacher : Mr Warren Beadell
Administrative Officer : Mrs Tracy Barker

13th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you with an update as to the actions, measures and considerations that the school is currently undertaking as a response to the developing Coronavirus situation.

As many of you are aware, we have spoken to all the children about the importance of hygiene both in assemblies and in classroom discussions. The advice of washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (singing Happy Birthday twice!) and to catch a cough or a sneeze in a tissue and to then dispose of the tissue.

Some classes have also engaged in a circle time activity to discuss the context of this virus and to help dispel any myths and to answer any questions that the children may have and to help keep the situation proportionate.

The school cleaning team have also been engaging in a more enhanced school cleaning regime using the appropriate cleaning materials.

Additional signage has been placed around the school, focussing on the sink areas as a visual reminder for the children (and staff) to regularly wash their hands and the times at which we expect and encourage the children to wash their hands or to sanitise.

Before the children are sent for lunch they are reminded to wash their hands. Prior to them receiving their hot dinner a member of staff is administering hand sanitiser as an additional precaution. There are several hand-sanitising stations around the school which are kept topped-up and there are boxes of tissues in each classroom.

We will also be sending out email updates where the school has had to take actions or precautionary measures to safeguard your children and the staff so that you are fully informed of these actions first-hand.

We are aware that there are a number of vulnerable children and staff who will be at greater risk if they were to contract the virus and therefore that in these circumstances we will be making decisions that err on the side of caution.

As part of this response, we will be implementing more enhanced signing in and reporting procedures, especially with regard to certain symptoms that are associated with the virus. The obvious ones that we will be both asking about and looking for are a cough, high temperature/fever and/or a shortness of breath.



If your child has the symptoms of a cold but not the specific symptoms of cough, fever or shortness of breath we will still be erring on the side of caution and ask the parent or staff member to stay at home and for a daily check to occur to see if any further symptoms develop or abate. If, through a discussion, your child is asked to stay at home whereas in normal circumstances they would likely be in school, this will still be coded as a sickness.

Current advice from central government is, "If a confirmed case occurs in school the local Health Protection Team will provide the school with advice and will work with the school to agree 'a way forward'. Outside those that are defined as close contacts, the rest of the school does not need to take any further precautions or make any changes to their own activities attending school as usual, unless they become unwell but we will communicate to all staff and parents to inform and advise on this.

If someone presents or is reported to be unwell they will be assessed as a suspected case depending on their symptoms. The decision as to whether pupils and staff fall into this contact group or the closer contact group will be made between the Health Protection Team and the school. Advice should be given as follows:

- if they become unwell with cough, fever or shortness of breath they will be asked to self-isolate and should seek medical advice from NHS 111
- if they are unwell at any time within the 14 days of contact and they are tested and are positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated as such."

Given the advice that unless advised by Public Health England (PHE) a school will remain open and all children will be expected to attend, if you decide to remove your child through concern that your child may contract the virus, please contact the school. We will of course be sympathetic to individual cases, especially if the child or members of the close family are vulnerable or have pre-existing health conditions.

You are likely to receive emails today and in the near future updating of situations or decisions made by the school. This is to keep you fully informed of the evolving situation as it emerges at Peel Common Juniors.

If you require any further information please email the school office or contact the school office to arrange an appointment with myself.

Yours sincerely



Mr Andy Clarke
Headteacher