



Whitehouse Primary School

Whitehouse Lane
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE29 8PE

Tel: (0191) 643 2890

Email: whitehouse.primary@northtyneside.gov.uk

Website: whitehouseprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: **Ms R. Woods BA(Hons) NPQH**

13th March 2020.

Coronavirus Update

Dear parents/carers,

In the light of this unprecedented outbreak of the Covid-19 virus (Coronavirus), I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you and inform you of the precautionary measures we are taking in our school: I receive daily updates from the Dept for Education/Gov and the Local Authority Public Health Lead about the virus and we have followed that advice in school with regular staff updates and actions:

- We have always encouraged children to wash hands thoroughly and use the hand sanitisers located around school, but we have increased our procedures around this.
- We have displayed information posters and shown every class NHS handwashing techniques videos and other videos which are aimed to allay anxieties but present the issues around this in an informative way. It is recommended that pupils, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food
 - Before leaving school
- We have ensured that our stocks of soap, disinfectant, tissues and hand sanitiser remain in good supply.
- We have highlighted the importance of the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' message around using tissues when coughing or sneezing and disposing of them in the nearest bin immediately.
- We have cleaned touch points around school at least twice daily.

I have written a clear action plan around this issue and it was agreed by the governing body last night. ALL USERS OF THE BUILDING are now asked to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or use the alcohol-based hand sanitiser before entering the main school.

Our Action Plan includes a strategy for home learning in the event of any potential school closure. We will send you further information should this be required, but we are not at this stage currently.

As parents/carers you can work with us by:

- Ensuring that the thorough handwashing and tissue-using techniques are followed at home.
- Informing the school if your child shows any symptoms of a cough, difficulty in breathing or a high temperature- and follow Public Health recommended guidelines.
- Call the DfE Helpline for any concerns you may have- 0800 0468687
- Ensuring that you have provided the school with up to date phone numbers and email addresses
- And finally, reassuring your child by not transferring any anxieties you may have.

By explaining our actions, I hope that I have reassured you that all the staff at Whitehouse are all committed to taking every measure required to respond to this virus in a calm and efficient way- with the health and wellbeing of your children at the forefront of all we do. We will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely,

R Woods
Headteacher

