



15th March 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing in relation to the Coronavirus. As you will know from the news, the British government has currently made the decision to keep schools open. All decision making in relation to the virus is fast moving so I recommend that parents keep up to date.

The current phase of this disease is containment which means that we as a school have two key roles. The first is to ensure that all members of our school community practice good hand washing and respiratory health. Our second responsibility is to reduce the need for social mixing which speeds up the spread of the virus.

Good hand washing and respiratory health:

Thorough hand washing is essential to reduce the risk of infection. I would urge all parents to watch the NHS video which demonstrates how to wash hands properly. The video is available at the following web address - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/> If parents could practice this technique with their children at home that would be really helpful. At school we will be supervising the children to ensure that they are washing their hands thoroughly. We will also be setting aside time so that all the pupils can wash their hands regularly.

The guidance around respiratory hygiene describes what individuals need to do when they cough or sneeze. Individuals need to cough or sneeze into a handkerchief and then put the handkerchief into the bin. If people are not carrying a handkerchief they need to sneeze into their elbow to reduce the spread of infection. Staff will remind pupils about minimising the risk of spread using these techniques.

Reducing social mixing

All the countries that have gone into 'lockdown' have insisted that people isolate themselves from each other. We are not yet at this point in the UK, but as a school we need to play our part to reduce the requirement for groups to gather together. To this end, we are postponing the parents evenings that were due to take place on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March. We are also cancelling any events which require groups to gather together. For the following week that means, we will not be having the Ising Pop assembly on Thursday 19th March, or our Mothers' Day assembly or afternoon tea on Friday 20th March.

Alongside these precautions we will not gather the whole school together in assemblies and we will stagger lunchtimes so that the children can collect in smaller groups.

As schools are advised about any further actions in relation to the Coronavirus we will write out to parents. We feel that our school needs to have a clear plan which safeguards all of our school community whilst continuing with our core function of educating our pupils.

We will continue to add the latest guidance to the school website. Please use this resource to keep up to date. I am sure that by working together we will get through this very worrying period. I will be in touch with any updates.

Yours sincerely

Gary Richards
Head Teacher

Whittington C of E Primary School
Whittington | Worcester | WR5 2QZ

Headteacher
Gary Richards

tel. 01905 354844 fax. 01905 350868
email. office@whittington.worcs.sch.uk
www.whittington.worcs.sch.uk