

HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

Dear Parents

Following the spread of the coronavirus in the UK and abroad, we want to outline the preventative measures School has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection and ask for your help and support.

School continues to follow the advice provided by Health England and the Government. We are also mindful of the Government's recently launched public information campaign that focuses on the importance of handwashing. We are undertaking the following actions in school:

- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap.
- Using alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain 70 percent alcohol throughout the school.
- Children's hands are being routinely cleansed as a minimum on the following occasions –
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - before eating food, including snacks
 - before food preparation
 - before leaving school
- We are using Government produced video clips to help explain to the pupils the importance of keeping hands clean and not spreading germs through coughing/sneezing.
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away ('Catch it', 'Bin it', 'Kill it')
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual.
- Being vigilant in regard to anyone feeling unwell.
- Advising members of the school community who have returned from Category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days before they come into School.
- Advising members of the school community who have returned from Category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to stay at home if they develop symptoms.
The full list of Category 1 and Category 2 countries can be found on the Government website.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

Unless your child has tested positive for the coronavirus (and hasn't been exposed to anyone with the virus), they should attend school as usual (unless they are too unwell due to an unrelated illness), as per the current Government advice.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has the coronavirus, please contact NHS 111 and let the school office know at the earliest opportunity.

We would like to reiterate that these are only preventative measures, in place to anticipate any occurrences of the coronavirus within the School.

Kind regards

Jane Driscoll
Headteacher