

Monday 16th March

Dear parents and carers,

There is a great deal of media attention covering the Coronavirus in schools and workplaces. We receive regular information from Public Health England (PHE) and the Trust and will be guided by them in terms of steps we need to take to protect the children. Our first priority, as ever, is the health and wellbeing of our children, staff and families who make up our learning community.

What is happening in school now?

We have already taken a number of measures in school:

- Regular handwashing (on arrival and departure, before and after lunch, after sporting activities)
- The children are being reminded of good personal hygiene
- No hand-shaking
- Use of hand sanitizers around school
- No whole school assemblies
- Staggered playtimes for lower and upper key stage 2
- Greater spaced drop off and collection zones on the playground

What may happen in the coming days?

There are a number of measures that we may take, for example, temporarily eating packed lunches/dinners in classrooms instead of the hall, reducing the time spent sat on the carpet, cancellation of school visits to crowded locations, cancellation of events and visitors and further staggering of playtimes. These measures will come into effect if and when we believe them to be necessary.

Will the school close?

It is a possibility that it may become necessary to close the school – whether directed to do so or if this is a decision that we need to take ourselves due to staffing issues. Any closures could be partial or whole school in either the short term or long term as advised. We are aware that we may get little notice of such school closures and therefore we are planning at a number of levels behind the scenes so that we are prepared.

If this does become necessary we will produce a simple package of learning for the children to access from our school website. This will include a collection of maths resources, reading comprehension, spelling/phonics, writing tasks and a research project. There will be links to websites which you may be familiar with and that can support children's learning. If accessing the schools website creates potential difficulties for you then please do let us know by contacting the school office ASAP.

We will keep you informed via ParentApp, the school website, our Twitter feed and Facebook page. During any closure, the office email address (admin@astreathehill.org) will be checked daily so that any questions or queries can be directed via email to the school.

How can you help?

- Please ensure that the school has the most up to date contact details for yourself
- Get in touch with the school if you have difficulties accessing any of the above mentioned means of contact for the school
- Get in touch if you cannot access the web for home learning information should the school close
- Please let us know if you or anyone in the household has travelled or is intending to travel outside the UK with details so that we can be proactive should that area be flagged by the government
- Ensure that your child is sent to school with their own, named, water bottle
- Teach correct handwashing at home with your child/children

There have been some suspected cases in pupils over the weekend. It is very important that should **you or your children have any known symptoms of the virus (persistent cough, fever, and breathing difficulties) that you let us know and that you self-isolate for at least 7 days, ensuring symptoms have gone before returning to school.** Please follow guidance from the NHS, Public Health England at all times and when necessary phone 111.

If you have any further queries then do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Emma Cadman

Principal