



13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID-19 – Coronavirus – Haytor View Community Primary School

You will not have failed to have heard about the challenges facing the country currently as it seeks to manage the impact of COVID-19. As a school we are taking these concerns extremely seriously and are keen to act in accordance with guidance being provided. **We are committed to taking no unnecessary risk in this respect and will be acting with caution as we seek to maintain the health and well-being of your child, the wider community and the country at large.**

With this in mind we would wish to reiterate current government guidance which is seeking to address the current situation. This states that **anyone with coronavirus symptoms, such as a persistent cough or high temperature must stay at home for 7 days.** In demonstrating our own response to this advice, we have today made the decision that three members of school staff must stay at home for this period. We are also grateful to parents who have supported our cautious approach, by keeping children at home, or liaising with us and allowing us to support them in making decisions in relation to school attendance.

**In light of the current situation, the school's focus upon attendance through the celebration of weekly awards will be suspended. Furthermore, absences as a result of children not attending school due to guidance and caution being exercised by families, will not be included when considering termly or annual 100% attendance awards.**

Our priority is to ensure, as best we can, that our school community operates in accordance with the current guidance given and with this in mind the following handwashing procedures are being adopted throughout the school:-

Pupils, students, staff and visitors are washing their hands at least:

- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
  - before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
  - before leaving school

**We would ask that you support the current guidance by ensuring that your children wash their hands before leaving home in the morning and when they arrive home at the end of the day.**

Primarily through School Gateway and our texting service we will continue to keep you informed of the school's response to guidance being provided as well as any local decisions that we may be forced to make. Local decisions **may** include the consideration of staffing levels and the ongoing operational arrangements of the school. We hope that this will not be necessary,

however this is a difficult area to make predictions around. Please be assured that any such decisions will be made with the safety and well-being of your children in mind.

We would ask for your support and flexibility during this time – if you feel that your child may be displaying symptoms outlined in government information **we would encourage you to follow the guidance given and keep your children and yourselves at home where appropriate.** For our part we will be vigilant in ensuring that children and staff with persistent coughs or fever are supported in following guidelines, contacting parents where necessary to support our role in keeping the school and wider community safer moving forward.

Should you have any concerns or questions concerning this information please do not hesitate to talk to a member of the school team who will be happy to listen to you.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling  
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba  
Chair of Governing Board