



17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### **COVID-19 – Coronavirus – Haytor View Community Primary School**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank-you for your patience and flexibility since our last letter sent on 13<sup>th</sup> March. You will be aware of updated guidance issued by government yesterday as we continue to seek to manage the impact of COVID-19 together.

As a school we will continue to follow official guidance from Public Health England, the Department for Education and the Local Authority, as they are best placed to deal with the situation in the UK. Most recently the Chief Medical Officer has advised that the *'impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce would be substantial. Decisions on future advice to education or children's social care settings will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group'*.

You will appreciate the situation is one which is very 'live' and requiring ongoing review and response from us as school leaders according to the advice from Government and operational requirements.

**Keeping the school open as we anticipate growing numbers of staff may be required to self-isolate, is acknowledged as the most pressing challenge for schools.**

As a result, we are currently planning for events that may see the school closing either as a result of Government direction, or due to the school being unable to operate due to insufficient staffing levels. Currently we have a number of staff, including pre-booked cover staff, who are self-isolating in line with Government guidance. We are currently unable to source any further qualified teaching cover staff due to the current crisis. We are seeking to continue to deliver a service to our children and families through rearranging teachers and splitting classes to maintain provision. Your children may have mentioned this to you where they have experienced this today.

As we look forward, should this become impractical we may be required to close particular classes or phases, in order to maintain the safety and well-being of children and staff. Where this is the case, **we will notify parents at the earliest opportunity in order to inform you of the changes to arrangements through School Gateway.**

Be assured that any decisions will be made with the safety and well-being of your children in mind.

Among the matters we are currently exploring as we seek to support the community in the event of school closure are:-

#### Front Line Service Workers

Arrangements for children of parents who are providing a 'front-line service'. **With this in mind we would ask that you get in touch with us if you work for NHS; Fire Service; Police; Social Care; Adult Care, and would experience child care difficulties in the event of the school closing.**

#### Free School Meals

The ongoing provision of school meals for those children who qualify for free school meals.

#### Home Learning

Preparing approaches to engaging your children in learning at home

#### Keeping in Touch

Maintaining ongoing communication and provision of advice

We will advise you as we make progress or arrangements in these areas,

We would ask for your support and flexibility during this unprecedented and difficult time which is making demands on all of us. If you feel that you or your child may be displaying symptoms outlined in government information we would encourage everyone to follow the guidance given and to keep everyone safe:

Once again, thank-you for your patience and flexibility during this unprecedented and difficult time. 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 hear from you. As a reminder to us all I have highlighted current government guidelines in keeping ourselves as safe as possible at the bottom of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Katy Galling  
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba  
Chair of Governing Board

#### **Government Guidelines**

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. They should remain at home for 14 days along with everyone living in the household.
- If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home
- Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using standard cleaning products
- Supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues