



# Durham Lane Primary School

Head Teacher : Mrs J.A.C Ball  
Amberley Way, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 0NG  
Telephone 01642 780742 Fax 01642 788834

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Chickenpox

We currently have a quite high number of Nursery and Reception children with chickenpox; children with symptoms should be kept off school until ALL spots have scabbed over.

## Coronavirus

We are fortunate as a school to have such supportive and sensible parents during what is a difficult and worrying time for everyone. As you're aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus changes daily. We'd like to reassure you that at Durham Lane Primary School we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government Stockton-on-Tees Local Authority.

## What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we've been given. All school functions continue to run as normal.
- Pupils should attend unless they, or anyone in your household, has any of the following symptoms in which case they **should remain at home for 14 days**:
  - a new, continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning school.
- In line with Government advice, we are postponing/cancelling some events this half term as follows:
  - Class 2's assembly on Friday (relevant parents see separate letter from Mrs. Jessop);
  - Class 1 and 2 Snappy Music at Thornaby Pavilion 24th March
  - KS2 Spring Concert 1<sup>st</sup> April

We'll obviously keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

## What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- As always, if a child feels unwell whilst at school we will contact you; if they have a fever or continuous cough we will ask you to take them home;
- Cleaning is always thorough, but all door handles and areas most frequently touched by children are being cleaned more regularly;
- We are ensuring that children are washing their hands (with soap) as often as practically possible;
- Lessons and assemblies for pupils about hygiene are being given and also on how to deal with anxiety, where appropriate.

## What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)

## What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so, or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- Let you know by letter and messages on Twitter and our website; please only pay attention to those directly from us;
- Provide details of any work we are able to set for pupils during any closure.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

## If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community. It's important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. J.A.C. Ball

Head Teacher