



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

18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus – More Information

Following a staff meeting tonight, and further to yesterday's letter, we are now also taking these steps to help safeguard everyone in school:

- Before school starts, classroom doors will be opened as soon as gates are opened at 8.45am to minimise the amount of time you need to be on the playground;
- At home time, please can you keep the time you are on the premises to a minimum – please remember to tell anyone picking up/dropping off for you to do the same;
- We will now only allow essential visitors into school. As a consequence, all activities run by external providers will be cancelled until further notice i.e. DFC Coaching, Mr. Sheahan's lessons and clubs, whole class brass, peripatetic music lessons from Mr. Mackay and Mrs. Catchpole;
- Please don't think we are being rude if we don't open the office hatch all the way open if you come to the window;
- If we send a child home from here because we are concerned about symptoms of coronavirus, we will also have to send any siblings home – these children will then be subject to the 14 day self-isolation rule;
- If a sibling in your household is sent home from another school due to concerns about symptoms, we will also need to send your child home from here - these children will then be subject to the 14 day self-isolation rule;
- Parents' Evening on 23rd March is now postponed. If teachers feel that they need to speak to you urgently, they will phone you. Likewise, if you feel concerned about your child's progress, please contact school and the teacher will call you as soon as practically possible;
- The Nursery new starters' meeting on 26th March is cancelled – Mrs. Guest will contact individual parents involved;
- If you get a phonecall from us on 788834, please do not call us back on it as it is linked to a (very old!) fax machine; we can call out on it (leaving our other line free), but you can't call in;
- Do remember that our answerphone is always on – it does ring for a long time, but it will eventually click on if you want to leave a message;
- Whole school assemblies will not be held;
- Children's regular handwashing is being carried out in classrooms so that staff can ensure that children are doing this properly;
- KS2 children will have an afternoon break to shorten the time the class are together;
- Tables at lunchtime will be spread out further than usual;
- Opportunities will be taken throughout the day to open doors and windows to give classrooms a change of air;
- Staff who present with coronavirus symptoms will not attend school and will self-isolate for 14 days as per the guidance;
- If staff numbers decrease below the number required in order to ensure children's health and safety, classes may be instructed to stay off, or the school may have to close;
- As I said yesterday, staff are busy working on resources to be able to send home or put on our website if schools are made to close;
- We will continue to do all that we can to 'Keep Calm and Carry On!'

Testing times are ahead; we will continue to respond on a day-to-day basis. Thank you for your continued support,