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Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at Redwell Primary School we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given
- **2 staff members are self-isolating** because of family members presenting with symptoms
- All school functions continue to run as normal including **breakfast and after-school clubs**
- If your **child or any family member** living in the same household, has any of the following symptoms they **should self-isolate for 14 days**:
 - a new, continuous cough and/or
 - a temperature (37.8°C and above)
- any child or staff member returning before the end of the 14 day recommended period of isolation will be **sent home immediately**
- If your child is unwell or you are **having to or choosing to self-isolate**, report this as you would normally by contacting the school office via email office@redwellprimary.co.uk, these **absences will be authorised**
- We will keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- If a **pupil starts feeling ill** on the school premises, we will contact parents / carers for the pupil to be **collected immediately** from school and any **siblings**
- If staff are unable to attend school, we will cover classes with existing school staff. Where this is not possible, we may need to extend class sizes as a temporary measure
- We continue to enforce **regular handwashing and good hygiene**
- **ALL Assemblies are now cancelled**, until further notice

- If you decide to **self-isolate**, we will follow DfE guidance in recording the pupil as absent under exceptional circumstances, these will be **recorded as authorised absences**
- We are **postponing parents evening** until the summer term, date to be confirmed
- We are advising **external visitors not to visit the school**, therefore we will not be using supply teachers to cover in the case of staff absence
- Any meetings with staff, if essential, should be conducted via telephone

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email; office@redwellprimary.co.uk
- 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 will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that your child has **access to Purple Mash** from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we are well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)
- If you have any doubt about symptoms, self-isolate as a precautionary measure, we do not want to put other staff or pupils health at risk

What happens if the school has to close?

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

In either case, we will:

- alert parents to closure, via our text alert service and a post on our website and social media platforms
- alert parents when the school will be reopened, via our text alert service and a post on our website and social media platforms

Please keep in mind that we are 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 are 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.

Anne Ansell
Head Teacher