



13 March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice and Information: Prevention and Management Strategy

Dear parents and carers

Given the new advice from government authorities yesterday, as they move from the Containment to the Delay stage of their strategy to deal with the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, I have reviewed our current plans and practices with the aim of reducing the risk of transmission of coronavirus to our children, families and staff.

Although the needs of the children and staff in the junior and infant schools may differ in some respects, I am in regular contact with Mr Scott at the infant school regarding the issue and our response to it as the situation evolves. Please read the following information carefully.

To prevent the transmission of coronavirus in school while continuing to provide your children with their education as fully as possible, we have developed a *Prevention and Management Strategy* and I have highlighted some key aspects of this for you on the following page.

If circumstances change, we will update you via text and email. If you have not yet provided the school office with your email address, please could you do so. You can also follow the school Facebook page to receive the latest information.

I would like to thank parents and carers for your support at this time and for the sensible approach that you have shown towards this situation so far.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hunt

Current situation at Someries Junior School

I am pleased to inform you that we have had no cases of coronavirus in school; moreover, we have not been notified of any confirmed cases of the illness in our children's families. Children at school are following hygiene advice and our attendance so far this week remains high at 96% even though we are still in the months where children are often ill with seasonal illnesses.

We have put in place the following strategies to protect your children in school:

- all children continue to wash or sanitise their hands when arriving at school
- all children will be directed to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day
- our daily cleaning regimes have been escalated and all hard surfaces are being cleaned regularly throughout the school day, including taps and door handles
- children have been taught to use the "Catch it, bin it, kill it" approach to coughs and sneezes.

We have also prepared work for pupils to enable them to continue their learning at home in the unlikely event that we have to close the school.

Prevention and Management Strategy

School Office restrictions

To reduce the number of people coming into school, where possible, please contact the school via telephone to make enquiries or notify us about anything we may need to know.

Our telephone number is 01582 738810. This telephone is monitored between 8:30am and 4:30pm. An answer machine facility is also available.

Planned events for parents and carers

To reduce unnecessary gatherings in school, we are postponing all events for parents and carers between Monday 16th March 2020 and the end of spring term. We hope to rearrange these events for future dates.

This decision affects:

- Weds 18 March: 5 Hercules Assembly
- Weds 25 March: Year 4 Play
- Mon 30 March: Years 4 & 5 Maths Workshop for parents & carers
- Weds 1 April 5 Perseus Assembly
- Thurs 2 April Year 4 Pop-up Café for parents and carers

School trips

All school trips planned to take place between Monday 16th March 2020 and the end of spring term will be postponed. This decision affects the Year 5 trip to Whipsnade Zoo on Thursday 26th March. (Sports tournaments are also likely to be cancelled or postponed.)

As we are currently in the process of rescheduling this trip, we will not be offering refunds at this time. However, should the trip be cancelled, we will provide refunds to all affected parents and carers.

Coronavirus-related school closure procedure

Currently, advice from Public Health England continues to be for education settings to remain open unless advised otherwise.

The current guidance for educational settings states that:

- If we have a suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19), we do not need to close but will need to clean specific areas and dispose of waste in a certain way.
- If we have a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19), Public Health England will contact us to support us in making a decision about school closure, but this would not be necessary in most cases.

However, owing to the potential high levels of sickness absence amongst staff, partial closures of the school or reduced operating hours may be a necessary step to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our school community. As a worst-case scenario, the school may have to close completely if we have too few staff to operate safely.

When deciding whether to close the school, we will liaise with Public Health England and a joint decision will be made whether the school should remain open or not, should this not be under direct instruction from central government.

The decision to close the school will be communicated to all parents and carers via email, the website and Facebook as soon as any decision is made.

When should my child stay at home?

Your child should stay at home if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

They should stay at home for 7 days if they have:

- a high temperature (higher than 37.8°C)
- a new, continuous cough

However, unless your child is displaying the above symptoms, there is no reason for them to absent from school and not fully benefiting from their education because of any concerns relating to coronavirus.

General advice from Government regarding coronavirus (COVID-19)

Guidance for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

This is for people with confirmed or possible coronavirus infection who are required to stay at home.

The main messages are:

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
- sleep alone, if that is possible
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water
- stay away from vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions as much as possible
- you do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

You can access Government's ongoing responses and guidance relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) [here](#).

Prevention

To help slow the spread of coronavirus, make sure you, your children and your family follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home.

The Department for Education has established a Coronavirus helpline. This helpline should be able to answer any questions you may have about Coronavirus (COVID-19) and you contact the helpline using the following details. (Opening hours: 8:00pm to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday)

- Telephone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

<p>If you need to cough or sneeze</p>  <p>Catch it with a tissue</p>  <p>Bin it</p>  <p>Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser</p>	<p>You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser</p>  <p>After breaks & sport activities</p>  <p>Before cooking & eating</p>  <p>SCHOOL ETC. On arrival at any childcare or educational setting</p>  <p>After using the toilet</p>  <p>Before leaving home</p>
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