

# King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

Dear Parents and Carers,

5th March 2020

I am writing to you as a result of the heightened media attention and further cases of Coronavirus identified in the UK.

We are being regularly updated by the Department of Education on what schools need to do in response to the Coronavirus. We will publish any updates on the school website, but we will ask all parents/carers to check their emergency contact details in case we need to get a message out at short notice (via text messaging for example).

The current advice continues to be for schools to remain open, monitor the situation and for any staff or students who have returned from one of the list of affected areas who have flu-like symptoms to self-quarantine and contact 111 for further advice, before informing the school of the outcome.

We have a school protocol in such situations that supports our decision-making. We also have a risk assessment in place to manage the school effectively in this situation. This includes measures to prevent the spread of germs within school and also how we will respond and operate should we have a positive diagnosis of Coronavirus at King Athelstan. Children will now be washing their hands very regularly throughout the school day (e.g. after break and PE in addition to before and after lunchtime). We have shown the children how to do this effectively by watching the video on BBC Newsround. They sing the happy birthday song twice to know how long to do this for.

We will be introducing sanitizing hand gel for staff and visitors too. As you will be aware, this is in short supply nationally, however, we may extend this for use by children in the future. Please ensure your children wash their hands well before they leave home in the morning and when they arrive home after school. Tissues are available in class and children have been taught the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' mantra.

Our cleaning company have increased the cleaning of surfaces and handles and our own site team have been instructed to do this during the day, too. Plans are also in place to maintain the effective operation of the school should a number of staff be off school.

We have additional risk assessments in place for school trips, and we will keep parents/carers informed of any developments. Please do inform us immediately via the school office should a member of the family become unwell or if your child's immune system is compromised by an existing condition.

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

Emily Newton  
Headteacher

