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Dear Parents/ Carers,

Coronavirus

As I'm sure you are aware there are many differing news articles and advice articles around Coronavirus, some of which are issuing misinformation.

Information about the Coronavirus is being updated on a daily basis and this information is being shared with schools daily from the Department for Education and Public Health England. At present the advice is that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

There are clear guidelines for schools and we will continue to follow these; in the event of any increase in risk or suspected case of infection, the recommended course of action is set out very clearly in the guidance to schools and will be followed.

There is a new Department for Education Coronavirus helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

In school this week, staff have reminded the children about the importance of keeping clean, particularly with regard to increasing regular handwashing, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, using and disposing of tissues. This is a good message to also share and reinforce at home. Singing the 'Happy Birthday' song through twice whilst handwashing is about the recommended safe time of at least 20 seconds.

We have had some questions from the children and have addressed these in an age appropriate and reassuring way. As a parent, you may wish to continue those gentle conversations to avoid them becoming worried and distressed through inappropriate media coverage. BBC Children's Newsround is a good children's source if you are uncertain about the level of discussion and sort of language to use.

We shall keep you informed of any further change to advice and will keep you updated on any actions taken.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Liz Orland
Headteacher