



# HEAD TEACHER NEWSLETTER

11<sup>TH</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

## CORONAVIRUS

As you will be aware, the UK has a growing number of confirmed Coronavirus cases. In response to this, The Department for Education are providing all schools with daily information and guidance linked to the advice of the Chief Medical Officer.

I have now completed a School Risk Assessment and Risk Management plan to look at the prevention of coronavirus at Golden Hill.



Golden Hill is currently in the **PREVENTION** stage. We are taking the following measures within school:-

- Increasing hand washing and simple hygiene: All children are being explicitly taught how to wash their hands properly with soap and warm water and how to “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” in regard to coughs and sneezes.
- We are implementing a higher degree of cleaning within school, including disinfecting door handles, taps and tables at lunchtime as well as

before and after school.

- We are strictly enforcing the 48-hour rule for sickness and diarrhea and asking parents, whose child is ill, to keep them at home until they are better.
- We need to protect every child, staff member, our taxi drivers and passenger assistants and therefore need to reduce the spread of any viruses. If your child is displaying illness e.g. raised temperature, cold/flu symptoms i.e. runny nose, cough, sore throat, sickness and diarrhea I am asking you to keep your child at home and monitor their symptoms. If symptoms do not improve, please ring 111 or your GP surgery.
- ***I am asking you to help school by ensuring your child washes their hands before getting onto the taxi each morning. I recommend they also wash their hands as soon as they return home each day.***

It is impossible to know for sure if any of us have come into contact with someone infected with the coronavirus. The estimated period before symptoms appear is approx. 5 days. However, if you or a family member, relative or person you have come into contact with has travelled to a high-risk country e.g. Italy, China, Iran, Hong Kong, then you must inform school and take advice from 111.

I will continue to take advice and guidance from the Department of Education on a daily basis. As you would expect, I am drawing up contingency plans to minimize the disruption to children’s learning should the Coronavirus spread and adversely affect our staff attendance or should a pupil develop the infection. These contingency plans include preparing for a partial or full closure and include how school would continue to provide learning activities for our children e.g. work packs and learning links on our school website.

**AT THIS STAGE, THERE ARE NO REASONS FOR GOLDEN HILL TO CLOSE and I hope our advanced preventative strategies means this does not happen.**

I appreciate your co-operation in supporting school in reducing the spread of infections and illnesses. If you do have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Allison Collinge

Head Teacher

Golden Hill (Short stay) School