



Menston Primary School

St Peter's Way, Menston, West Yorkshire. LS29 6NY

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E-mail: office@menstonprimary.co.uk

Web site: www.menstonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Iain Jones BEd (Hons) NPQH

March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus

As you will be aware, schools have had to plan their response to COVID-19, both in terms of responding to the emerging situation and planning for potential closure and I wanted to let you know what we are doing to ensure we are prepared.

Alongside the health risks that COVID-19 may present, we also note an increase in anxieties about the virus from families. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that the age of the children across our school means they are in a **low risk category** unless they have underlying health conditions.

The current advice from Public Health England is for people to stay home for 7 days if they develop symptoms such as a high temperature (above 37.8 C) or a new, continuous cough. It is vital that parents make decisions based on the most up to date advice from Public Health England and take action if those symptoms arise. Please contact the school in the normal way to make us aware of any absence and the reasons for it.

The situation will undoubtedly continue to evolve and we will remain in constant communication with the DfE and Public Health England to update you of any changes to guidance.

As you will be aware, the latest guidance from the government is for schools to remain open at this time. Whilst we would hope that the situation develops in such a way that we are able to remain open, we are conscious that closure is possible. For this reason, plans have been made to provide work through the school website.

To help protect the children and the wider school community, we have taken the following steps:

- All pupils and staff are aware of effective handwashing techniques and the need to wash hands upon arrival and throughout the school day.
- Wherever possible handwashing is supervised and used as a learning opportunity.
- Toilets are regularly checked to ensure adequate soap is available for handwashing.
- Cleaning staff are cleaning door handles, door plates and other frequently touched surfaces thoroughly at the start of each day and throughout the course of the day.
- Where it is safe and practicable to do so, doors are being wedged open so that touching of handles etc. is unnecessary.

Finally, although there are a number of potential outcomes over the coming weeks, including partial and full closure, we will continue to liaise with Public Health England and the DfE and review current practices to ensure they sit alongside the best professional and expert advice available.

Here at Menston Primary School, we are dedicated to safeguarding the well being of all children and adults in the school and expect everyone in our community to share this commitment.



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The following links may be useful for further information:

- Department for Education Coronavirus Helpline: 0800 046 8687
- Public Health England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

We thank you for your continued support of the school and wish all our families and friends of the school the very best.

Yours sincerely

Iain Jones
Headteacher

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