



## Workington & District Primary Heads Association

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### Updated School response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) 13/03/2020

#### Please take note of highlighted sections.

Dear Parent

Please note the following advice remains the same:

Cases of coronavirus are predicted to increase. This means the likelihood of a pupil or member of staff testing positive or being in contact with a confirmed case and being advised to self-isolate is increasing. The current situation is that if there is a confirmed case at school then Public Health England will advise on the appropriate and proportionate steps to take. Where a pupil or staff member is self-isolating due to contact with a confirmed case the current national advice is that schools should remain open.

We are not aware of any cases that affect our school community currently. However, students **must not** come into school if they have any of the following symptoms:

1.
  - a. Fever
  - b. Dry cough
  - c. Shortness of breath

If any of these symptoms are present or you are worried in any way that you or your child may have contracted coronavirus you should contact NHS 111 immediately to seek advice. Please then notify the school about the action you have been asked to take.

#### **Update:**

#### **Symptoms**

**The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:**

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection**

#### **Key messages**

- 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.

It is parental choice if you also include siblings. We are **NOT** advising full household isolation at this moment.

I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of students and staff is our top priority. Having carefully considered the current situation in Cumbria, we are going to take the following measures with immediate effect:

We are continuing to have no events at school and will postpone events until a later date. We are minimising visitors to school and ask that parents do not enter the school unless invited. Please avoid gathering in groups in entrances at the beginning and end of the school day.

In addition to these actions, we have put in place a number of measures with the children, staff and visitors. This includes encouraging good hygiene and regularly checking the soap dispensers to ensure that there is always an adequate supply, ensuring everyone follows 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' and use of hand sanitiser.

We will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation closely and follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education. The Department for Education's advice page for schools can be found using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The most important advice is to limit the spread of the virus. Health-care professionals stress the importance of hygiene and hand washing. They recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Catch it, Bin it, Kill it: Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin
- People who feel unwell should stay at home

Students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:

- After using public transport
- Before leaving home and on arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before eating any food, including snacks

We will continue to monitor this situation daily. If circumstances do change in anyway then we will contact you immediately with any arrangements that may have to be put in place.

Yours sincerely

**THE HEAD TEACHERS IN THE WORKINGTON & DISTRICT PRIMARY HEADS ASSOCIATION**

