



Kentidge Way, Waterlooville,
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Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 update

As you may be aware the government yesterday has changed the status at which they believe the COVID-19 virus to be in the UK. They have confirmed that as a country we are now at the delay stage and their advice is: **“Anyone with a “new, continuous” cough or high temperature is now advised to self-isolate for seven days”**

Public Health England has issued the following guidance (accessed on their website today at 1:37 p.m.)

“The advice for anyone in any setting is to follow these main guidelines.

1. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature. If you have these symptoms, however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started. You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.
2. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that’s all you have access to.
3. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don’t have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
4. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

At the current time and based on our understanding of what is known of COVID-19 and other similar respiratory viruses, it is likely that older people and those with chronic medical conditions may be vulnerable to severe disease. As more information emerges, recommendations may change.”

My child has a new cough, what should I do?

Follow the guidance above from Public Health England then please advise the school accordingly in the way that you would normally report your child as absent.

Should my child attend school if they do not have the symptoms described above?

Yes. Importantly, there have been no reported cases at Berewood Primary School, and we continue to stay open, so pupils should attend as normal. The government confirmed yesterday that there is no need to close schools but that they will keep this under review. Public Health England (PHE) state on their website that there is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups

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– very few cases have been reported in children. We will of course let you know if the situation regarding Berewood Primary School changes.

What precautions is school taking?

We continue to promote good hand hygiene in line with the advice from PHE that we have already issued and reprinted here for convenience.

“There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before food preparation
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

We receive daily updates from the Department for Education, Public Health England and the University of Chichester Academy Trust on what action we should take. I am also in regular contact with the Chair of Governors, Mr Graham Olway, to ensure that he is kept up to date on the latest information about the school.

Assemblies and lessons

We are also discussing sensible precautions in school assemblies and in class with children to ensure that good hygiene remains a top priority for all of us. Parents and carers can rest assured that at all times this information is taken from advice given to us by PHE and will not differ from that sent home to you already.



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What about planned school trips and events?

Voice in a Million colleagues have already decided that they have postponed the visit planned to sing with other pupils until later in the academic year. All other visits and events will take place unless we are advised otherwise by PHE or the venue or location we plan to use issues different guidance.

What can I do as a parent/carer?

- Continue to promote good hygiene as listed above.
- Ensure that we have your up to date email address and contact details so that if we do need to get hold of you, we are able to do so.
- Take advice from NHS111 if you are worried.
- Report your child as absent in the normal way as appropriate

Please do continue to discuss things with us if you are concerned, but kindly note we can and will only give out general advice in line with that provided to us by PHE. For detailed medical queries or questions please refer to information and publications from PHE and the NHS. Links can be found here and will also be posted onto the school's website in the coming days.

See further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

Yours sincerely,

Ricky Leigh
Headteacher