



St Wilfrid's RC Primary School.

Murphy Crescent, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL14 6QH
Headteacher: Miss J Sands **Deputy Head:** Mrs B Kinsey
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'A school family, growing together in Love, Friendship and Faith'

Dear parent/carer,

Re: Coronavirus

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

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

The risk is currently low in County Durham, however to minimise the spread of any infection in school we are:

- Encouraging staff, pupils and visitors to wash hands thoroughly and regularly.
- School surfaces and door handles are cleaned daily
- Asking anyone who may have been exposed or has symptoms to get advice and if necessary self isolate

As you may be aware, we have the following visits planned:

- Year 6 residential to London in June
- Year 5 residential to Lake District this week

These trips will be going ahead as planned unless advice changes.

Year 6 had planned on a visit to Oriental Museum at Durham University – this has been cancelled as the University has closed.

The current advice is that schools cancel visits abroad. We have no overseas trips planned.

If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way sending message on Text 2 Parents and on Class Dojo (*if you do not have a Dojo login please see you child's class teacher*)

We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this. We will be putting links on our school website to access work at home if you are self-isolating. If you are self-isolating and online access is limited please contact school and work can be provided.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

Wash your hands often – with soap and water and scrub for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Avoid close contact with people who are unwell





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If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

The most recent UK government advice (12.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for seven days.

If you or your children have returned from abroad in the last 14 days, please follow the link below for advice about category 1 and 2 countries.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

Symptoms to look out for

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

Cough

Difficulty in breathing

Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses. Please see the link below for information about self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

As I mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another staff member.

Thank you for your support

Yours sincerely

Miss Sands

