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Head teacher: Mrs N. Batt

12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to reassure parents that we are taking advice regarding the outbreak of Coronavirus and how as school we should respond to this. I receive daily updates from Clare Kershaw, Essex Director of Education, and we follow the Local Authority advice as to any actions required. We are continuing to follow advice from Public Health England in respect of Coronavirus.

We have been teaching the children to wash their hands thoroughly and ensuring that they do so before eating and after using the toilet - this is something we always reinforce but we have focused on this more in the last 2 weeks. We have been advised that washing hands is far more effective than antibacterial hand gel and subsequently we have been promoting this. If children bring in hand gel teachers will keep it for them as it is a chemical and therefore we need to ensure that it is used correctly.

We have been advised that we should continue with all normal curriculum activities including PE and forest schools. Being out in the fresh air and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is paramount to building up children's immune systems.

Please note that we have ***not been put on alert to close and at present we have no plans to close the school for any additional time.*** If any cases are brought to my attention we have been advised to contact the Local Authority who will provide further support. I am discussing with the staff provisions that we will make for continuation of pupils learning in the event of school closure and update you with this accordingly.

***We are working closely with the Local Authority and if we are advised differently by Public Health England and the Department for Education to close, we will inform parents and carers immediately.***

Finally, can I ask you as parents to be aware of the emotional effects that situations such as these have on your children. The media around Coronavirus is very high resulting in large scale anxiety. It has come to our attention that children are becoming concerned to an extent where they are researching about the virus and whether or not they may die etc. Some children are having nightmares/not sleeping and it is having an adverse effect on the pragmatic approach that we take at school. Please be aware of this and support us in dealing with this in a sensitive way.

Yours sincerely

Mrs N. Batt  
Headteacher