



Newsletter 16th March 2020

Aycliffe Village Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers

I open this week's newsletter with an update about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus. I am sure you have all been watching the news develop, as I have, and it is understandable there is much concern about this.

We take the health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, I 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>

I would like to make you aware of the following:

- ***If your child is presenting with a fever of 37.8 or above and has a new, persistent and continuous dry cough then they must not attend school and must stay at home for 7 days.***
- We will be increasing handwashing in school—children will be required to wash their hands as they enter school and when they leave. Staff and visitors will be asked to do the same as will staff and children from the House of Eden Nursery who are in our school building and use our facilities.
- We will continue to promote careful and thorough approach to handwashing with children to ensure recommended hygiene measures are being followed properly. We hope you can also encourage and promote this at home.

We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary. I wish to stress that we have not been given any official confirmation that this will happen, however it is clearly something that is being considered for the future. If circumstances arise where our school must close, we will inform you in our usual way, eg via text messages, our school website, app, Facebook Page, weekly newsletter and additional letters, when necessary. I fully appreciate how difficult school closures would be for many of you but this might be something we have to do. Therefore I would ask you to start considering options available to you, in the event of this happening.

Understandably this is a concerning time for us all. I feel it is extremely important we continue to respond to this in a calm and sensible way; taking appropriate measures whilst reassuring our children and promoting an approach that does not lead them to be overly anxious about this situation. I hope you can continue to support us with this.

As always, please contact me at school if you have any additional concerns you wish to discuss further.

Take care
Mrs H Sutherland
Head Teacher

Update from Mr Jim Walsh, Chair of Governors

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to update you on the Governors' plans for the school following Mrs Sutherland's decision to step down as Headteacher. We are planning on meeting with the Local Authority before the end of March to agree the next steps as, like all maintained schools, we have to have approval from the Local Authority to advertise a Headteacher vacancy. We are also working with the Local Authority to put interim measures in place to ensure leadership continues in the school until more permanent arrangements can be made. As a Governing Body we will let you know once we have more information to share. Thank you for your understanding and commitment to the school

Many thanks
Jim Walsh
Chair of Governors

Class Whatsapp Groups

I have mentioned this a couple of times before on newsletters and, unfortunately, need to mention it again. I am very concerned about some of the comments that are sometimes made on class Whatsapp groups. I appreciate these are closed groups and many may have the view that this is not any of my business. However when comments are being made that mention individual staff members or seem to be whipping up feelings or sometimes presenting things that have happened in school as 'facts', this greatly concerns me. My experience of these types of posts or communications is that the whole story is rarely shared and only one view or perspective is offered. I am aware of recent comments that refer to situations that had already been addressed by myself or other school staff. If you have a concern please follow appropriate channels and speak to school staff; we will endeavour to do all we can to address these.

Homework for this week

We have been invited to take part in a poster competition being run by local police. We have decided to ask children to do this as their homework this week. The theme of the poster is railway safety. Children will bring home an A4 piece of paper on Friday and a note with more details about this. We are looking forward to taking part in this community competition!

Wow word of the week



Update about Sports Relief and heats for Aycliffe's Got Talent!

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts for Sport Relief. We will let you know once we have a total amount. It was wonderful to see the children's excitement for the heats for Aycliffe's Got Talent! And what a range of talent we have in our school - ventriloquists, comedians, singers, dancers, gymnasts, footballers, pianists, guitarists—I could go on! Thank you so much to all children who took part. We still have one class who need to finish their heats. Once these have been finished and children have voted for their favourites, we will announce who will be in the final on Friday 3rd April!



Celebration Assembly Awards

Well done to the children below who were chosen for awards in our Celebration Assembly last Friday!



Outstanding Learner	Liyah H
Outstanding Attitude	Charlotte G, Sophia W, Clara McW
Outstanding Manners	Scarlet S, Sophia C
Wow Writer	Lily D
Maths Wizard	Rudi L, Jude F
Values	George H, Harrison J
Reading Rockstar	Ollie J
Curriculum Award	Oscar H, Jack W, Kayden B, Layken H
Homework	Joshua T
Head Teacher Award	Aria T, Jasmine D
Golden Broom	Lime Class!