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Principal Mr N Watson

13/03/20

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to our communications of 26<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 we want to update you on the ongoing situation regarding Coronavirus. **Please note the Further Measures section of this communication.**

The information we distributed on the 10<sup>th</sup> March remains in place. To recap:

- We have a risk assessment management plan in place which will be updated regularly, in line with guidance.
- We currently have adequate supplies of soap, hot water, tissues and staff are encouraging good hygiene routines amongst children through measured discussions in class and age appropriate lessons/activities.
- Staff are regularly updated on the latest guidance from the PHA and DE/EA
- Our cleaning team have reviewed routines and plans are in place to respond to the need for a deep clean etc.
- As the situation unfolds we may have to make adjustments to routines and/or to forward planning and we will try to inform you of any such adjustments as soon as possible.
- We will only close school or part of the school if circumstances or guidance make it necessary. If that does happen we will inform parents through SMS messaging, email and social media/website posting.
- It is our intention to manage all of the above without causing alarm or anxiety to our pupils or to our broader school community by maintaining a measured and proportionate approach based on the best information available to us.

The most up to date guidance with direct relevance to Northern Ireland is available at  
<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>

**Further Measures from 13 March 2020:** In order to continue to manage the risk and reduce the spread of infection we are also taking the following measures:

- Our Open Door Policy is being suspended as of the 18<sup>th</sup> March to reduce footfall within the school building, make it easier to maintain cleaning standards under pressure and reduce the density of gatherings within the building. Please work with us on this and drop your children at the school doors or gates.
- We are suspending out of school trips for the foreseeable future for the same reasons and school swimming will also be suspended forthwith.
- The forthcoming P6 & 7 residential trips scheduled to take place at the beginning of April and May respectively have been cancelled. We expect to be under pressure in the weeks to come in maintaining safe operational staffing levels and we cannot afford to stretch our resilience to unsafe levels by going ahead with events that require additional staffing both in and out of school. Parents who have already submitted payment towards the costs of residential trips will have it refunded in due course.
- Current guidance is that anyone displaying symptoms such as persistent cough, high temperature or other cold/flu like symptoms should self-isolate for 7 days. We recommend taking medical advice

from your GP practice or contacting the national coronavirus helpline on 111. It is likely that guidance will change as the situation unfolds and we will be doing our best to keep up to date.

- Our staff are in the process of making contingency plans for learning and teaching in the event of a national closure of schools. If that does happen, we will be posting learning activities on a daily basis using the See Saw App, which most parents P1-5 are familiar with. Parents of P6&7 children not familiar with the app will receive instructions on its use and a QR code to access it today.

We pride ourselves on being a dynamic and active school who provide a broad range of experiences to pupils both in and beyond the classroom. The ongoing pandemic situation is going to have an inhibiting effect on that which is unfortunate but unavoidable. Thank you for continuing to work with us to try to manage the situation as well as possible.

As you will be aware the situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic is a rapidly changing one. We will be keeping the situation under review and will do our best to keep you up to date with any further measures or changes as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Neville Watson

Principal