



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that should you wish to withdraw your child from school due to concerns about your child's health and the Coronavirus then you may do so, and this absence would be authorised.

We continue to follow Government guidance and are requesting all visitors to school wash their hands on arrival. We understand that you may be concerned about your child's health needs and the Local Authority have asked us to hold a confidential list of all **employees** who have vulnerabilities - such as asthma, cerebral palsy, respiratory difficulties, diabetes (there are more). As a result of knowing that there is additional concern about such vulnerabilities, I felt that it was only fair to write to you and provide you with the option to keep your child away from school.

Clearly this may be a difficult and worrying time for you. There is very clear guidance on the Government and Public Health England websites and I would like to reassure you that this advice and that of North Yorkshire County Council is being followed closely on a daily basis here at school.

This is an individual decision, on a family by family basis, until we receive anything further from the Government. Clearly should you decide to absent your child at this time, we would be unable to say how long you would need to make the commitment. School will be unable to provide any further advice or information or liaison at this time. However, it would be helpful if you could email: hnewton@springwater.n-yorks.sch.uk - where we will keep a confidential register of your decision to withdraw. We respectfully request that if you do withdraw your child that you do so consistently, rather than a few days here and there, as we will be adjusting our staffing requirements as a result of your decision.

Further to this and following the Government announcement that the country is now in the 'delay' phase, please ensure that you keep your child at home and isolate them following the Government 'Stay at Home' guidance should they have the following symptoms.

'Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

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Key messages

- if your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, they must stay at home and not leave your house for 7 days from when their symptoms started.' (There is more information on the Government website)

I provide the links to the websites you may find useful at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Sarah

Sarah Edwards
Head Teacher