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Making a Difference for our Future

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the Government has updated its Coronavirus guidance, as announced in Tuesday's news. This guidance contains the following information :

"Based on current evidence, the main symptoms of COVID-19 are a cough, a high temperature and, in severe cases, shortness of breath.

The exact response to COVID-19 will be tailored to the nature, scale and location of the threat in the UK, as our understanding of this [virus] develops."

As a school, the safety, health and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. We appreciate that parents and guardians may have questions about the Novel Coronavirus and how this will be managed in schools.

We will be receiving daily updates from the Department for Education as of today, to keep us updated on the governments' response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The most recent email has the following information:

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline

Yesterday, we launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Today we spoke to all children in an assembly to reiterate the importance of good hygiene and handwashing in preventing the spread of the disease, as set out in the Delay Phase of the Government's action plan. We have purchased extra soap dispensers and soaps for key areas of school and have posted key information up around school to remind children of these important messages.

The latest advice from NHS Direct is

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately
- wash your hands with soap and water **often** – use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available. Sing Happy Birthday twice while washing, to make sure you have taken enough time on the task.
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

You may follow the links below for more information about the government's latest guidance and up to date information on COVID-19.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869250/Coronavirus_advice_for_educational_settings_poster.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

We will continue to follow the guidance sent to us by Public Health and the Department for Education and will update you with further information in the usual ways.

Our Meadowside values encourage respect, kindness and support for our community; we can all therefore be sensible, responsible and help one another. If each one of us follows the advice, we help ourselves, everyone in school and then, our communities at home and locally to stay healthy.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Staff and Governors at Meadowside