**St. John’s Upper Holloway C.E. Primary School**

**Pemberton Gardens, London N19 5RR**

***Telephone*: 020 7272 2780 - *Fax*: 020 7561 1692**

***Head Teacher*: Mr Brian Welsh**

*Email* *info@st-johnsholloway.islington.sch.uk*

*Website* [*www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk*](http://www.stjohnsupperholloway.co.uk)

13th March 2020

**Coronavirus Update**

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to keep you updated regarding the school’s response to Coronavirus. We receive regular information from Islington, Public Health England and the DFE and act upon these as appropriate. We will keep you informed of any new advice through parent mail and on the website as information comes in (www.st-johnsholloway.co.uk)

As you may have heard on the news there are currently no plans to close schools or cancel any large events and gatherings. We are therefore continuing to focus on ensuring good habits of hygiene around the school to minimise the spread of any infection.

This mainly entails:

* Good regular handwashing habits and teaching children the 20 second rule
* Proper use of tissues for sneezing or blowing noses and then disposing of these in a bin
* Additional cleaning of surfaces that are touched frequently such as door handles and tables.

We have also decided to cancel any trips that require the use of public transport.

The most recent advice is to keep your child at home (for 7 days) if they present with the symptoms associated with coronavirus ie very high temperature and a persistent, dry cough. We have put guidance notices in each classroom window to provide further advice.

We have been looking to the future and drawing up contingency plans. The information to date indicates that children are most likely to experience mild symptoms if they contract the virus. However, it could be that if the virus spreads, the school could experience significant staff shortages, either due to illness or the need for individuals to self-isolate. We will endeavour to keep the school open in the event of multiple staff absences, however this may involve introducing precautionary measures such as cancelling clubs, requiring children to bring packed lunch, splitting or combining classes and avoiding large gatherings such as class assemblies etc. We will plan for these if issues arise.

We hope the above will not be needed, however we feel it is important to inform you of actions which may need to be taken.

I have also put some planning in place for what would happen if all schools had to close. This would be communicated with you if that eventuality occurs. Please note the school will only close if directed to do so by Public Health England and we will notify you if this happens.

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What parents should do:

* If your child suffers from a respiratory disease (e.g. asthma), ensure the school is provided with up to date medication
* Continue to reinforce that children should regularly wash their hands using the 20 second rule, (singing Happy Birthday twice!)
* Keep children off from school if they are unwell until they have fully recovered and communicate this to the school office
* Inform the school immediately if you have had to contact NHS 111 and are self-isolating
* If you have recently travelled, please check the website below for information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified>

***It is more important than ever that we are able to communicate with parents quickly and efficiently. The main way in which we will be doing this is through Parent Mail. If you have not downloaded the app it is essential that you do so. It is also essential that we have your most up to date information so please inform us if you have recently changed your phone number or email.***

I will write to you again if there are any significant changes to the above.

Brian Welsh

Head teacher