

NEWLYN SCHOOL

Headteacher : Mrs I Stephens

Telephone: 01736 363509

Email: secretary@newlyn.cornwall.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.newlynschool.co.uk>



Newlyn School
Carne Road
Newlyn Penzance
TR18 5QA

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Coronavirus Update

I am contacting all parents to provide updated information about the school's plans to manage the risk of Coronavirus infection over coming months. The school has received detailed advice and support from Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT) and is following guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE). These organisations are providing daily updates for schools, and parents will understand that this advice is continuing to change in response to local and national cases.

You can access information from the TPAT website www.tpacademytrust.org for information on Coronavirus which links government guidance.

The Government has a 4 staged approach:

1. Contain: detect early cases and prevent the disease from spreading for as long as reasonably possible.
2. Delay: slow the spread, lowering the impact and pushing it away from the winter
3. Research: to better understand the virus and the actions needed, including research into drug treatment and vaccination
4. Mitigate: provide the best care possible for people who become ill, support hospitals, public services and the economy.

At the present time, the Contain phase is still active nationally, and we have been told by the DfE that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) case of COVID-19 unless advised to do so. Should this happen, our emergency school closure procedures will be used, and parents will be informed by email/text message and via our website. Please help us to maintain good communication with parents by ensuring we have up to date contact details for you. This is very important at this time.

Public Health England advice about reducing the risk of infection focuses on hand hygiene.

The current government guidance is that to help prevent the spreading any respiratory virus you and your children should:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

Our school is well stocked with soap, and hand sanitiser is available at Reception for school visitors.

The key symptoms of Coronavirus infection are a cough, difficulty in breathing, a temperature (above 38 degrees C). Pupils or staff exhibiting these symptoms should contact NHS 111 for advice and follow the advice with regards to self-isolation. At the current time, the advice from the DfE is that the absence of pupils who are required to self-isolate by Public Health England will be authorised. Pupils who are not required to self-isolate by Public Health England should continue to attend school and parents requiring further advice should contact the school.

We would ask all parents for their support in ensuring that, if their child is required to self-isolate, they follow this advice and inform the school. **This is extremely important.**

Should there be a confirmed case of Coronavirus, then the school will inform Public Health England (who will provide further advice), TPAT, Governors and the Local Authority. We will also inform other local schools who we work closely with, and who may have families linked to the confirmed case. We will also, importantly, inform parents so that our families are kept updated.

We are continuing to closely monitor the national, local and international developments and to make any required adjustments to our planned trips and visits. Parents will be kept fully informed if their child is due to participate in a trip and trip leaders will be in regular contact with families about our plans.

I hope this information is helpful to our parents and families. I am aware that we have children in our school, and family members who have serious underlying health conditions: parents with individual concerns should contact NHS 111 for advice and keep the school informed about any specific concerns affecting our children. Essential to our schools is that parents and pupils follow Public Health England advice with regards to self-isolation and, in the interest of the health of our school community, parents should know that we will not admit a student or member of staff to our school site where this would contravene Public Health England advice.

Along with senior leaders in the school, I will keep parents fully updated about our management plans and would like to thank parents, in advance, for their ongoing support. Our priorities remain, as always, the safety of our pupils and the highest quality of education provision.