17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As a school, we continue to consider carefully all guidance we are receiving on a daily basis from the Department for Education and, following the Prime Minister’s update yesterday, schools remain open. Therefore, as much as is possible, we want to operate as usual for our pupils and try, for their sake, to maintain an element of normalcy in these uncertain times. However, following on from the updated guidance, the governors and I have made the decision to enact further precautions to help delay the spread of coronavirus.

Visitors (including parents)
We have made the decision to cease unnecessary meetings and visitors coming into school in order to further minimise person-to-person contact – this will include parents/carers and family members. As a result, this will mean having to cancel a number of upcoming events that would involve parents coming into school. Planned events that will be cancelled include:

- Year 2 Parents’ SATs meeting – 17th March
- 3PS Class Assembly – 18th March
- Reception Mother’s Day sing-along – 19th March
- Parents Evenings – 24th and 25th March
- Year 5 Easter Assembly – 31st March

Sporting Fixtures/Events
Sporting events that were due to take place, such as Tag Rugby and Cross Country, have also been cancelled.

Trips and visits to external venues
Trips and visits to external venues will be cancelled for the time being. This will include the Year 3 swimming lessons.

The Hub
For those parents that use The Hub before and after school, when you come to collect your child, you will be asked to wait in the foyer and your child will be collected and bought out to you.

After School Clubs
After school clubs and activities will continue as these do not involve external providers delivering them (with the exception of Karate which will be cancelled). We want to maintain as many of the day-to-day activities as possible for as long as possible as we feel that these are important for the children’s enjoyment and well-being.

I am sorry for any inconvenience these measures may cause but hope you can support our decisions in the interest of protecting the health of the children and staff as well as you and your families.

‘Every Child Matters – Every Day Counts’
As well as the above measures, we will continue to promote the hand and respiratory hygiene measures that we have already implemented and provide opportunities throughout the day for the children to wash their hands. Can we also ask parents to ensure that children have their own water bottles, that are clearly labelled with their name, in school.

I would also just like to take this opportunity to reiterate the new guidance around self-isolation that the government released yesterday:

**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 illness.

**Isolation**
- If you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill
- It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Please follow the above guidance. If anyone in your household is showing symptoms, all members of the household should self-isolate for 14 days. Please DO NOT send your child/children to school if anyone in your household has developed symptoms and if you do go into self-isolation, please do not send them back before the end of the 14 day period otherwise you will be contacted and asked to collect them. If your child is going to be absent, please still follow the usual procedures and contact the school office to inform us. If you are unsure or need advice you can speak to the school office or contact the Department for Education helpline for schools on 0800 046 8687.

We will continue to post any updated information on the dedicated coronavirus page on the school website which can be found under the ‘News and Events’ tab or by following this link: https://www.cheslynhay-primary.staffs.sch.uk/coronavirus/. On here, you will find any letters that have been sent out about coronavirus as well as the Department for Education helpline for schools.

As always, we thank you for your continued support. Let’s continue to work together in order to protect, not only our families and school community, but also those in the wider local community and particularly the most vulnerable.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Griffiths
Headteacher

‘Every Child Matters – Every Day Counts’