

# Seghill First School

Main Street North, Seghill  
Northumberland, NE23 7SB

Tel: 0191 237 0419

Fax: 0191 237 3518

[admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you at this very challenging time to update you on what is happening specifically in our school and to provide guidance from Public Health England.

## Current situation in school

Currently, schools have been directed to remain open and we will do our very best to remain so. This is however, becoming increasingly difficult due to staff absence- staff absent for reasons not related to Coronavirus or who are self-isolating as per government advice. We do think it is important to have contingencies in place in case we are told to shut or have to shut part of the school due to staff illness / absence. In order to keep the school open and running we may also have to reorganise classes and teachers or increase class numbers in the event of increased staff absence.

## Attendance at school

We are being asked to advise parents as to whether their children should come to school or not. We are not qualified to give advice of this nature. If your child has an **underlying health issue**, such as a long-term condition or a weakened immune system, you should follow the advice on the NHS Coronavirus website.

If you think your child is at risk by being at school and you wish to **self-isolate**, you should inform us and do that. However, we must point out that the minimum period of self-isolation is 7 days. Children cannot be self-isolated for 2 days, for example, then return to school.

If your child is unwell and their **symptoms are not consistent with those of Coronavirus**, please keep your child off until they have recovered and keep us informed in the usual way by telephoning the school office by 9:00am on the first day of absence.

## Future events in school

All events that we have planned for the foreseeable future are now in doubt. Today's **athletics festival** for Years 3 and 4 has been cancelled. Tomorrow's **full governing body meeting** has been postponed. **Mother's Day lunch** scheduled for Friday has been postponed as it cannot go ahead as planned in light of the most recent advice from the government. We hope to re-arrange this as soon as the current restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, you will receive a refund of £5 from Mrs Elliott in the next couple of days. We do hope that the personalised gifts that we have ordered will be here by Friday and the delivery is not affected by the current restrictions, but we are in the hands of the Gods.

## Sharing information with you

Advice is changing daily and it is not practicable to write to parents every day to provide an update. We will **update our website** as regularly as possible. We will send out **text messages and emails** to share new information with you. It is really important that we have the correct **contact details** for you and you are registered with **Parentmail** so you receive this information. Please see Mrs Elliott if you need to update your details.

We will do everything that we can to keep the school open and to keep the children and staff safe while they are in school. We need everyone to follow the advice that the government has produced to help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

Guidance that was produced yesterday is attached for your information, including links to useful websites.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Miss Chappell  
Headteacher

Mrs Hall  
Chair of governors

## **Guidance from Public Health England issue late yesterday- Monday 16 March 2020.**

### **Stay at home guidance**

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.

### **Main messages**

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started. (See ending isolation section below for more information);
- 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;
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14 day isolation period. (See ending isolation section below for more information);
- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period;
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible;
- if you have coronavirus symptoms:
  - do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital;
  - you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home;
  - testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home;
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household;
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home;
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser;
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

### **Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:**

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home;
- your condition gets worse;
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days.

**Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.**

### **Social distancing guidance**

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people. This will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

## **Main messages**

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). These symptoms include high temperature and/or new and continuous cough;
- Avoid non-essential use of public transport, varying your travel times to avoid rush hour, when possible;
- Work from home, where possible. Your employer should support you to do this. Please refer to employer guidance for more information;
- Avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs;
- Avoid gatherings with friends and family. Keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet, and social media;
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP or other essential services;
- Everyone should be trying to follow these measures as much as is pragmatic.

For those who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant, we strongly advise you to follow the above measures as much as you can, and to significantly limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family if possible.

This advice is likely to be in place for some weeks.

[NHS website](#)

[Department of Health and Public Health England website](#)