



Escomb Primary School



Escomb, Bishop Auckland,
County Durham, DL14 7SR

Telephone 01388 603273

e.mail: escomb@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.escomb.durham.sch.uk

13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. My first priority will always be the health and safety of the children and staff in our school and now more than ever, this remains our primary focus.

In school we have:

- discussed with children (& reminded daily) good hand hygiene and 'Catch it, Bin it. Kill it' for coughs and sneezes.
- monitored children's washing of hands before lunch.
- ensured that cleaning procedures are rigorous particularly in 'vulnerable' areas e.g. toilets, door handles etc.
- removed self-serve salad bar at lunchtimes
- ensured that dining tables are fully sanitised before and after use.
- cancelled forthcoming Mother's Day Event.
- considered the implications for any future school visits as necessary.

We have also been advised by the Local Authority Health and Safety Team that hand gel should not be brought into school to be used by the children. The reasons for this are that washing hands is more effective and the dangers from the hand gel containing alcohol, plus being inadvertently squirted in someone's eyes, is a hazard.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government and the NHS. This advice is being added to on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. The official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

Whilst I appreciate that there will be a wide range of different views about how we should be responding and what action should be taken, I hope you will appreciate that I am duty bound to follow the official advice from government.

I am also aware of the impact this situation is likely to have on tests and exams. Whilst my immediate concern is the health and safety of children and their families, clearly the longer-term impact is a concern too. I have been in communication with the National Association for Headteachers and I am confident that these matters are being raised with government. I will keep you updated with any further information on this as and when we receive it

As soon as we have any information we will communicate this to you in a timely manner

Of course, if anyone in your family is self-isolating or confirmed as positive for the virus, please do get in touch immediately.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind Regards,
Wendy Gill
Headteacher



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



investing in children