



... the sky's OUR limit!

# Ridgeway Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs. J. Jelves

Dear Parents,

11 March 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Coronavirus has now been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation. A pandemic is a disease that is spreading in multiple countries around the world at the same time. Numerous cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed in the UK and the Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the public from low to moderate.

Advice from Public Health England continues to be for education and children's social care settings to remain open, unless advised otherwise. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes to the current situation.

We prioritise safety and are committed to reducing the risk of spreading at school and within our nurseries and are adhering to Government, Public Health and The Department for Education guidance on managing the risk from Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

We are minimising the risk to children in our care by asking staff and families that have travelled to affected areas listed in my previous letter not to attend our settings until they have completed a 14-day self-isolation period in the UK after travel. We will continue to ask this until the risk has reduced and we are monitoring both the UK and global situation.

**Persons that are known to have come into close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid-19 or has been advised to self-isolate by the public health authority, should inform the school immediately.**

As has been previously communicated, we are committed to reducing the risk by ensuring effective hygiene practises are in place for both children and staff as advised by Public Health England:

- Wash hands frequently with soap, especially before eating or handling food, after toilet visits, or when hands are contaminated by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing.
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and to discard the tissue immediately into a bin.
- No sharing of food/ drinks/ utensils.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, toys and equipment regularly.
- Ensure supplies such as hand soap and paper towels are available for children and staff's use.

We remain vigilant in ensuring regular and effective cleaning is carried out to a high standard.

**The DfE has asked settings to promote their helpline and website in social media, newsletters and bulletins.**

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

The latest guidance for education settings is available [here](#).

Kind Regards

Jo Jelves  
Headteacher