



**NEWHALL**

PRIMARY ACADEMY AND NURSERY

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and carers

We would like to reassure parents/carers that no member of the Newhall Primary Academy and Nursery (students, staff or governors) has currently been diagnosed with COVID-19. As you may know however, the Government has widened their advice on who should self-isolate to include anyone with a high temperature or persistent cough, **or anyone living in the same household with them**, even though they may not have been to an affected area or been in contact with an infected person.

What you need to know:

- Staff and children should stay at home for **14 days** if they (**or anyone else in their household**) are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education as normal.
- If staff or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.

We are working extremely hard to continue to keep the school and nursery open in these unprecedented times. The impact for schools of this new advice means that many staff are affected by the self-isolation policy, in the same way that families are also impacted. This means that we are dealing with higher than usual levels of staff absence at the current time, as per the new guidance.

We want to reassure you that our key priorities are the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your children and our first job is to ensure that the school and nursery continue to be safe places for your children, whilst they remain open. Therefore, with a significant number of staff absent, it may become impossible to continue to run the school and nursery as normal. For this reason, it may become necessary to partially or fully close the school or nursery, even if the government has not made a decision to close all schools. We will do everything to avoid a full closure, however if staff levels are too low to ensure children are safe, we will be left with no choice but to consider this option.

### **Actions we are taking to keep the school and nursery open for as long as possible**

- All staff will continue to come to work as long as they are fit and able to do so
- Cleaning has been increased and everyone in the school community is encouraged to be careful about handwashing and hygiene
- Classes may be merged or sizes increased
- Teaching and/or support staff may be redeployed to cover classes and safeguard vulnerable children



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### **What you can do to help**

- Follow the self-isolation advice for yourself and your children
- Regularly check our communication channels, such as emails, school website and social media pages
- Keep up to date with government advice
- Please collect children and leave the school/nursery site promptly, without gathering in close contact with others

**We are working closely with the Trust in order to offer a consistent and safe response to the current crisis. The health and safety of your children is everyone's first priority.**

The school and nursery offices are currently experiencing high volumes of calls. We appreciate your patience at this time, please continue to leave a message and we will get back to you as quickly as we possibly can.

We appreciate this is a unique situation and an uncertain time for us all. We are grateful for your co-operation, support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Gayler  
Headteacher