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Dear Parents / Carers,

## **Re: Coronavirus**

At the present time we are following the recommendations currently that special schools should stay open where possible.

However, we want to make the right decision for each individual child to keep them safe and protected in the right environment.

The government have advised that those who are at increased risk of corona virus to be particularly stringent in following social distancing measures.

### **This group includes:**

- Chronic long term respiratory diseases (asthma, COPD, emphysema, bronchitis)
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Neurological condition such as cerebral palsy
- Diabetes
- Spleen problems (eg. removal of spleen)
- Weakened immune system as a result of conditions or medication such as chemotherapy or steroid tablets

### **Social distancing within the school setting is difficult to achieve.**

### **What is social distancing?**

Social distancing measures are steps you can take to reduce the social interaction between people, this will help to reduce the spread of Covid19 virus. The advise regarding social distancing is as follows:

#### **-Stay at home where possible**

- Avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of Covid 19  
These symptoms include a high temperature and /or a continuous cough
- Avoid none essential use of public transport
- Avoid large gatherings and gatherings in smaller public spaces
- Avoid gatherings with friends of family, keep in touch using remote technology (phone /internet /social media)
- Use telephone or online services to contact your GP (or other essential services such as the childrens community nursing service if your child is known to the.)

### **The government advise is that everyone, should be trying, where able, to follow these measure as much as possible.**

It is in considering the above guidance that we have made together with the health care team the decision to advise children with the above conditions to remain at home until further notice. Our advise is based on what we believe to be the safest for this group of pupils.

This letter is only advisory and based on our interpretation of the recent government guidance .

## **Some reminders of how to keep our children and families safe:**

### **Handwashing and respiratory hygiene**

There are general principles you can follow to help reduce the spread of respiratory virus :

- Washing hands more often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds  
(This can be done to the tune of happy birthday sang through twice )
- Wash your hands when you sneeze, cough, blow your nose, eat or handle food
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with anyone who is presenting with the Covid 19 symptoms
- Clean /disinfect surfaces and frequently touched objects in the home e.g. Remote control, fridge and cupboard doors, telephone, keys etc.

Looking forward to welcoming you back to our happy school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Dellow

Head Teacher