



# New Haw Community School

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4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians

As I am sure many of you will have seen over the weekend, there have been media reports about Coronavirus in the UK and in Surrey, and many of you will be concerned. I (**the Headteacher**) can assure you that we are taking the situation seriously but that we do not need to cause undue alarm. It is important for the children that we remain calm, sensible and work together as a school community to follow the national guidance.

The advice to us from Public Health England and Surrey County Council remains the same and is as follows:-

1. Where a suspected case has been in a childcare or educational setting, **there is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.**
2. Even if there is a confirmed case in your childcare or educational setting, **in most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary and advice would be provided by Public Health England.**
3. As always, everyone should continue to promote good hand and respiratory hygiene:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze, then bin the tissue and wash your hands (or use a sanitiser gel).
  - Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

Remember, if you have any direct medical concerns, to contact NHS 111.

The Department for Education have set up a Coronavirus helpline (tel 0800 046 8687) for queries relating to schools and other educational establishments in England. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

This advice includes recommendations on how to respond to those people who may have been exposed to coronavirus, those with symptoms and those who have tested positive. At the time of writing, there are no known cases of suspected coronavirus amongst students and staff at New Haw Community School.

Your support in dealing with this situation appropriately is much appreciated. On this note, can I encourage everyone to be mindful of the potential for unhelpful and false rumours to be spread in situations like this; please do all you can to challenge this if you experience it and ask people to contact the school directly if they have any concerns.

We will provide further updates in due course but in the meantime, we look forward to continuing working with you to ensure the children get the very best education, despite the current challenges.

Yours sincerely

**Marie Cahill**  
Executive Headteacher