



# Stokesay Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. P. O'Malley

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to you with the most recent information from the Department for Education and Public Health for Education and Public Health England, regarding the Coronavirus which is also known as COVID-19. This letter, together with any future updates we receive in school, can be accessed via the Newsletters section on our website ([www.stokesay.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.stokesay.shropshire.sch.uk)). You can also access the information directly on 'Updates on COVID-19' at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Whilst we will continue to update our website this letter is to explain some key points, give you as much advice surrounding COVID-19 as we possibly can and also to ask for your support.

### Support from you: -

- Please inform us of any family travel which falls into the areas as listed at 'Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas' <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- If you, any family member, or your child show any symptoms or has been in contact with anyone who you know, or suspect may have symptoms of the virus you must contact **NHS 111** for advice. Should you, your child or any family member be diagnosed with the virus please inform us immediately. We will advise that your child must then remain at home and you should contact us with regular updates.

### School Closures: -

- On Monday all schools were notified that Public Health England have taken responsibility for all school closures related to COVID-19. There has been a period of uncertainty about if / when a school should close; Public Health England would direct Headteachers to close if they deemed it necessary.

### Advice we can give you: -

- Public Health England have 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 DFE are also providing regular updates.

- On the reverse of this letter we have copied for you an information sheet provided by Public Health England regarding advice for schools.
- Public Health England are giving very strong and clear advice on the importance of hand hygiene. We have posters in all toilets and urge you to press upon your child how important hand hygiene is in helping us to prevent and fight COVID-19.

These are very challenging and anxious times for many people, and I hope this letter provides some support. You may have other questions which we may not be able to answer at this



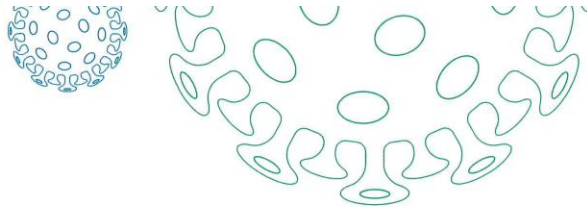
moment, but we aim to provide you with as much information as and when we become aware of it.

Yours faithfully

P. O'Malley  
Headteacher



Public Health  
England



## Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

### How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

### How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

### How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

#### If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it  
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it  
by washing  
your hands with  
soap & water or  
hand sanitiser



After breaks  
& sport  
activities



Before  
cooking  
& eating



SCHOOL  
ETC.  
On arrival at  
any childcare  
or educational  
setting



After using  
the toilet



Before  
leaving  
home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: [campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools)

### What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

