



12th March, 2020

Dear parents/carers

Update re Coronavirus

As the coronavirus is at the forefront of many of our minds at the moment, I thought I would write to you to give an update about the current situation and our school response.

I would like to reassure you that we are closely adhering to the guidance from Public Health England and the Department of Education, who are updating us daily. We are also liaising closely with the other FARM schools (Alameda, Russell and Maulden) as we always do, in our joint efforts to work together, in the best interests of the safety of all children in our collective care.

At The Firs, we have taken a number of steps in response to the current situation and the advice we have received:

- Focus in assemblies and in class on the importance of hand washing
- Regularly reminding children to wash their hands before eating at lunchtime and after going to the toilet
- Ensuring there are daily checks on the provision of hand soap dispensers and soap.
- The cleaning schedule includes the daily cleaning / disinfecting of key areas such as door handles, light switches, and other areas that have frequent hand contact, such as computer keyboards etc.
- We have created a Coronavirus page in the 'Parents' section of our website, to keep parents updated
- We continue to work with FARM colleagues to plan for any eventualities or changes as the situation develops and the country moves from the 'Contain' to the 'Delay' phase as per the Government action plan (which is available on our website).

In addition to these steps, from tomorrow (Friday 13th), we will be asking children to wash their hands during the registration period as they come into school and again at the end of the day before they go home.

We are aware that some children are becoming concerned as they hear from the news, overheard conversations or from older siblings about the Coronavirus and so over the next few days, staff will be talking to the children about the situation in an age appropriate and reassuring way. We will share the approaches taken with you in a further update letter.

Adam J.G Campbell (Headteacher)

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In the meantime, you will find a help sheet with this letter, which provides some useful guidance on how to discuss the topic with children and how to respond to any questions they might ask.

We will keep you updated as any new information arises, both on our Coronavirus web page and in subsequent letters. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Adam J G Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher