



SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ANDREW M HUNTER, Headteacher

17 March 2020

Dear Families

We are following events closely and over the past few days we have started to formulate contingency plans to support our children, families and staff.

Schools remain open, but I wanted to update you on measures already in place and those we are putting in place.

You will appreciate the measures to counter the spread of Coronavirus have been widened significantly. Advice from the Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland continues to guide our response.

I realise this is a very worrying time for everyone but please be reassured that the Council is doing all it can to support and protect our communities.

NATIONAL ADVICE

The updated national advice is that anyone living in the same household as a symptomatic person should self-isolate for 14 days. The most common symptoms are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or high temperature.

Parents/carers of children and young people with underlying health conditions should seek advice from NHS Inform and consider self-isolation.

All staff at Sciennes who are pregnant or over 70 years old will be working from home with immediate effect from tomorrow 18 March 2020.

NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

Given recent advice, we have taken the decision to cancel all trips from today until the end of the school session.

ASSEMBLIES AND GATHERINGS

School assemblies will no longer take place and regrettably our P4 Scots' Night and the Glee performance are cancelled. Active Schools Clubs and Parent Council Clubs will be cancelled from tomorrow 18 March 2020.

Parent Consultations are postponed.



SAND/PLAY-DOH

Permeable surfaces are believed to be more susceptible to harbouring germs, so the children will until further notice no longer be allowed to play in the sandpit in the playground or with sand in the class room. They will also not use malleable substances such as Play-Doh and plasticine until further notice.

HANDWASHING

Handwashing continues to be a major focus and all classes are adhering to the following procedures:

Children will wash their hands:

- **On arrival**
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before food preparation
- Before eating any food, including snacks
- **Before leaving school**

We would appreciate your support in encouraging the children to wash their hands before they leave home and when they arrive home.

Here is a link to the video we have shared at Assemblies on how to wash hands effectively:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IisgnbMfKvI>

Below are the very latest links to the Coronavirus advice on the NHS Inform website.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Obviously, this is an extremely dynamic situation which is under constant review and I will update you should any advice change.

Best wishes

Andrew



