



Ponteland Community Middle School, Callerton Lane, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9EY
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Part of Ponteland Academy Trust, Company No 10314306 www.ponteland.academy

Headteacher: Dr CA Pryer DL EdD MEd NPQH DipEd
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs EJ Cafferty BEd NPQH

24 March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

UK lockdown - please think carefully

Following on from tonight's update, the entire country is now in a full lockdown. Boris Johnson made it very clear that there is now a ban on gatherings of more than two people in public and that the British public are only allowed to leave their homes to buy food, medicine, **or to travel to and from work, but only where this is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.**

I urge to you to please consider very carefully as to whether your child needs to attend school. It is my duty, not only to safeguard the children of our community, but also my staff who are putting themselves and their families at significant risk.

I would therefore like to stress again it is crucial that in families where there is a **safe** childcare option or the possibility for one parent to work from home, that this is the option that you take. This is the best way to ensure that the virus does not spread to our children and staff, their families and other children, especially those who are vulnerable.

Key worker evidence

For those key workers that have no alternative option, can I please remind you that you **must** provide evidence to prove your official critical key worker status has been confirmed by your employer. To help us ensure that we offer a fair and equitable service to all parents, we are requesting an email direct from a senior member of your organisation, stating that your role is on the critical services list and the days you are required to work. **We may contact your employer to verify this.**

If we do not receive evidence this week, we will not be able to confirm your child's place next week. Thank you to the parents who have provided this already.

Non-school uniform and pre-cautionary advice

The latest advice we have received in school is that you are less likely to catch virus from a child coughing but more from things they touch. They are likely to be entirely asymptomatic. So unfortunately, the virus is more likely to be all over surfaces. It can also live on skin/hair/clothes.



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For children (and staff) recommended precautions are:

- As soon as you get home, have a black bin liner ready just inside front door or back door and ensure your washing machine door is open. People can help you get this ready but should stay away during procedure.
- Take off your clothes and place them all inside bin liner.
- Take bin liner straight to washing machine. Scrunch clothes into a ball. Do not touch ANY part of washing machine. Door should already be open. Carefully place clothes inside washing machine making sure you do not touch sides.
- Go straight to the shower. Do not touch door handles and if you have to, ensure they are wiped down after. Wash your body and HAIR thoroughly with soap/shampoo/shower gel.
- You should now be virus free. You can now go and shut washing machine and put it on.

Cell membranes of this virus are weak so all it takes is soap and water to kill it.

Due to this and to make it easier for parents/carers from tomorrow children can come to school in non-uniform (we recommend clothes that are comfy and easy to move around in as they will be doing sporting activities and playing outside). Anyone with long hair, please tie it up.

Our numbers have reduced to a handful of key worker children. I have notified NCC and asked if we can redirect those children to a hub school. We are awaiting discussion.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Pryer

Head Teacher