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Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Planning

Lydalls Nursery School and Chameleon Club

As you will know, the media continues to be dominated by coronavirus headlines and I wanted to make you aware of the actions we are taking at Lydalls.

We are receiving daily updates from Oxfordshire County Council and the Department for Education and are following all advice to minimise the risk for children, families and staff.

The NHS overview on Coronavirus can be found here:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

In line with current coronavirus (COVID-19) advice, you must stay at home and self-isolate for 7 days if you have:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough

Please do not enter the nursery if you have these symptoms.

From Monday 16th March and until further notice, parents/carers will be asked to take their children to the bathroom to wash their hands when arriving at nursery. Please note that our registration period is 8.45-9.15 in the morning and 12.45-1.15 in the afternoon. We encourage families to spread out when they arrive to avoid congestion in the bathroom. Children will also wash their hands with their group before going home each day.

Here are some useful links for you and some that you might like to share with your children on good handwashing practices:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/something-special-washing-hands-song>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p07bjh2g/teddles-dont-forget-to-wash-your-hands>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQCP7waTRWU&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjelWLnEg>



Didcot Partnership of Schools
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We ask all parents to keep abreast of the changing situation regarding travel from the worst-affected areas and request that **children should not be dropped off at Lydalls Nursery School or Chameleon Club by anyone who has recently returned from any of these areas.**

We are also writing to keep you abreast of how we are planning to respond to any escalation of the coronavirus situation and to ask for your help in making these plans so that we can offer as many services as possible should we be faced with staffing shortages at any stage.

If we are advised to close by Public Health England, we will announce our school's closure using our normal channels of communication – the Oxfordshire County Council website's Schools Closure page, local radio announcements (BBC Radio Oxford, Jack FM, Heart FM), through Parentmail and on our Facebook page.

In the event that our levels of staff are reduced, particularly in view of the new warning that requirements for self-isolation may soon be increased, we may need to partially close for some children. We will endeavour to stay open for 30 hours children and Chameleon Club for as long as possible in the first instance.

We would ask that any parent in a front-line or essential service role eg. medical staff or emergency services notify us, in order that we can prioritise their child's place. This applies across the nursery – parents of two year olds in Chameleon Club and children with 15 or 30 hour places.

We will give as much notice as possible if we need to close or reduce our service, however as I am sure you will appreciate, the situation may change very quickly. We will send information and activities to support home learning in the event of school closure.

We very much hope that we can remain open and operate as normal but believe that parents would prefer to understand, in advance, how possible staff shortages may affect their childcare arrangements and how we can work together to minimise any disruption.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions or individual concerns.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Phillips

Headteacher