

Dear Parent,

RE: Coronavirus

It has come to our attention, over the course of the weekend, that a family linked to the school is self-isolating, in line with Public Health Agency (PHA) guidance.

At this point it is important to note the following points in order to dispel any unfounded speculation which is circulating via social media:

- The child who is ill, is not a pupil at Dromara PS and at this point no other family members are showing any symptoms which may be connected to the Coronavirus.
- Symptoms only became apparent late on Friday afternoon; therefore, the family and the school had no knowledge of the child's illness during the day.
- This is an unconfirmed case of COVID-19 and the family are following the current advice given by their GP and PHA.

The school has taken advice from the Education Authority and at this time, the school will remain open as planned from Monday 16th March. We will carry out a precautionary deep clean of the school before opening on Monday morning. Obviously, this is a rapidly changing situation and if the decision is taken to close the school, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity.

The school also appreciates that some parents may take the view that they do not wish to send their children to school at this time. We fully understand this position and if you feel that this is something which you will do, please email the school (info@dromaraps.org) to inform us of your decision and we will mark your child with an authorised absence accordingly. We would appreciate if parents would not telephone regarding absences, as we only have a single telephone line and would like to keep the line open for emergencies.

We would, politely, ask that parents refrain from unhelpful speculation on social media. Please remember that a family is dealing with this scenario and, understandably, are concerned as to the potential implications. Now is a time for offering support to the family as a community and as such, our thoughts and prayers should be with them. As a school, we are very mindful of our duty of care to both pupils and staff and we would not make decisions that would put them or their family members at risk. At this time, we can only follow the current advice of EA, PHA and government ministers.

Advice is available at www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus

Please be assured that we have the best interests of all in our community at heart and we will keep you informed if there is any future action to be taken.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs I Burrows
Chair of Governors

Mr A Armstrong
Principal