



**Great Dunmow Primary School, Walnut Walk, Woodlands Park Drive,
Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1ZR
www.greatdunmowprimary.co.uk**

Dear Parents/Carers,

15th May 2009

As you may have seen in the press, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is making appropriate preparations in the event of an Influenza Pandemic. The UK Government has been planning for this occurrence and we are currently at WHO Phase 5. We have been working closely with Essex County Council in planning for the local impact of Influenza in our area.

Should an Influenza outbreak or Pandemic reach the county of Essex it may be necessary to consider closing public establishments. This may be either a particular establishment or, should the Pandemic become more prevalent, a county wide closure to try and stop the virus spreading amongst children or young persons. Individual establishments may also need to be closed should staffing levels be adversely affected due to staff being off work with the virus themselves.

Great Dunmow Primary School has pre-planned for such events and this is the first in a series of communications to keep you informed of the situation. Attached is a document from the Health Protection Agency which details important information that you should make yourself familiar with.

Within the establishment we will be increasing cleaning regimes and practising infection control measures in accordance with the national guidance being sent to all homes. We will be teaching and encouraging the children to:

- Wash their hands using soap and water on a regular basis throughout the day
- Cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing using tissues provided around the establishment
- Throw away dirty tissues quickly into bins provided around the establishment

We would strongly recommend that you consider this advice and continue these practices with the children when they are at home.

Can you please ensure that you return your ParentMail form to us as soon as possible.

We will communicate with you again in the near future should the situation within Essex change.

For further information and advice the National Swine Flu Hotline is **0800 1513513**. For immediate medical advice call NHS Direct on **0845 4647**.

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Ruck (Mrs)
Headteacher