17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a number of phone-calls this morning we felt it was important to share with you the up-to-date government advice with regards to the Corona Virus.

As you would expect, ourselves and the Trust have been following advice provided by the Department for Education and Public Health England in relation to the spread of coronavirus. In school the children have been washing their hands more regularly, including on arrival and before eating. At busy times (usually lunchtime), we also make sanitiser available to ensure that everyone is able to eat with clean hands.

In the coming days and weeks, it is possible that we will be more directly affected by the spread of the virus, either through its impact on staff numbers in school, or through being directed to close by the government or one of its agencies.

As advised by the government, school will continue to operate so long as we have enough staff to do so safely. Children should attend unless they present the main symptoms.

Parents are advised to read the government's guidance on staying at home in the case of suspected coronavirus infection. This is based on the most significant symptoms of

* **new continuous cough, *and/or***
* **high temperature (37.8°C)**

If children develop either of these symptoms, they should be kept at home for a period of 14 days from the onset of the symptoms. Full details are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The main messages are:

* if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for 14 days from when your symptoms started (see ending isolation section for more information)
* this action will help protect others in your community while you are infectious
* plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure you can successfully stay at home
* ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
* stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home whenever possible
* sleep alone, if possible
* wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
* stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, as much as possible
* you do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact [NHS 111 online](https://111.nhs.uk/). If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

If you have any concerns or queries please ensure you seek advice from the correct channels rather than through social media. As a school we will continue to provide up-to-date information as and when we receive it.

Yours sincerely

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Roy Gunning

Principal