



10 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure you will all have seen the media attention surrounding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We have been following the guidance that has been being updated daily and have just received the updated information below from the Department of Education.

A new helpline has been launched for anybody concerned regarding the virus and advice for schools on what to do should a suspected or confirmed case occur now or in the future. Currently schools are being advised not to close in any circumstances unless directed to do so by Public Health England and should we require advice in the future we would contact them and await further guidance. Schools have also been told not to cancel any up and coming trips and visits within the UK.

We will be continuing to follow any guidance released which at present is as below. As a school, we prioritise the safety of our children, families and staff and are adhering to Government Public Health and The Department for Information guidance on managing the risk from Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

### **What steps can you, staff and pupils take to protect themselves?**

Just like flu and other communicable disease everyone can take simple hygiene measures to protect themselves and others:

**1. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it:** Sneeze and cough into disposable tissues "Catch it", dispose of them "Bin it" and then wash hands with warm soap and water or use hand sanitiser gel if it is not possible to wash ("Kill it".)

See the Catch it, Bin it, Kill it leaflet at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2017/09/catch-bin-kill.pdf>

**2. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water** or hand gel if soap and water is not available, as a second-best option. We cannot stress too strongly how important this simple step is. Washing your hands for 20 seconds with liquid soap and water is so effective in breaking the chain of infection. This link will take you to a video clip and instructions for how to wash your hands - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



### **Advice on return from travel abroad**

Returned from travel to China Wuhan and Hubei Province and other specified areas:

If people have returned in the last 14 days from:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Or returned from Hubei province in the past 14 days they should immediately:

### **Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu and call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area**

*This advice should be followed even if people do not have symptoms of the virus.*

Travellers from other parts of China and other specified areas:

This advice applies to travellers who have returned to the UK from the following areas:

- China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau
- Italy (outside of the lockdown areas).
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If people have returned to the UK from any of these areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, they should immediately:

### **Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu and call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country**

This advice should be followed even if the symptoms are minor. People should take simple, common-sense steps to avoid close contact with other people as much as possible, like they would with other flu viruses.

The government have also set up the following website, which is updated at 14:00 hrs each day, giving information to the public.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

We are committed to reducing the risk by ensuring effective hygiene practices are in place for both children and staff and we remain vigilant in ensuring regular and effective cleaning is carried out to a high standard.

However, we would be grateful if parents/carers could also ensure school is kept informed of any concerns or upcoming travel arrangements which may pose a risk for further spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Cartwright  
**Acting Headteacher**