



12th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you about the School's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) following the Government's confirmation that the United Kingdom is moving from **Containment to Delay**. I know that some of you are feeling anxious about the possible consequences of the virus both on your children's physical health and their education. It is really important that you access information only through reliable and credible sources. There is a lot of misinformation currently in circulation which is not helpful and is likely to fuel further uncertainty and anxiety. We do know that the spread and impact of the virus is changing rapidly. The School will continue to monitor the situation and to follow closely any changes to the Government's published plan.

We will remain alert to healthcare information and advice from the World Health Organisation, Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England. **The position continues to be for education and children's social care settings to remain open.** The School will adhere to this recommendation, unless advised otherwise or if circumstances change and for operational reasons we are unable to staff the school to the level required.

We are ready to put additional measures in place as required. Daily updates from the Department of Education provide advice for schools and we will implement any recommendations as they arise. Our hope and intention is that the School will remain open and that the impact on our students' learning and overall educational experience will be minimised.

Preventing spread of infection

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of the virus including:

- Washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport. **We recommend that students wash their hands:**
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities
 - before eating any food, including snacks
 - before leaving school
- In addition:
 - cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. **See it, Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.**
 - avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
 - avoid close contact with people who are unwell
 - clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Please do not send your child to school with a face mask. They are not recommended to protect from infection as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.



Guidance announced today by the Prime Minister on 'self isolation'

Please find link below to the most pertinent piece of guidance published to date:

<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>

Who this guidance is for:

This advice is intended for people with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), including those with a diagnosis of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, who must remain at home until they are well.

The guidance:

Guidance is to self-isolate, ie. remain at home for a period of 7 days if a person has symptoms which have been defined below.

The Symptoms:

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- **New** continuous cough, and/or;
- **High** temperature (37.8 or above).

Key messages:

- for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection
- if you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home and do not leave your house for 7 days from when your symptoms started.
- this action will help protect others in your community whilst you are infectious.
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that 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 that is possible.
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water.
- 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 NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.



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IMPORTANT - Keeping in touch with School.

You must inform the school immediately on this number: Absence - 0117 919 8019

- **If you or your child has been to an affected area in a Category 1 or 2 country or;**
- **If you or your child has been advised or have self-selected to self-isolate or;**
- **If you believe that you may have been exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19)**

All other students should continue to attend school as usual. We will continue to keep you updated should circumstances change.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Jo Butler
(Headteacher)

