



26th February 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand that, given the media coverage of the Coronavirus, you may be concerned about the potential impact on school life if it were to spread to the local area. **The risk of this happening is currently very low and there is no reason why your son/daughter should not continue to attend school as normal.**

The local authority has assured us that the Government, NHS and Public Health England are fully prepared. We would also like to reassure you that we have a policy to follow in case we have any reported cases. However, in the meantime, it is always advisable to encourage your son/daughter to follow the usual precautionary measures that help slow the spread of almost any germs.

We ask for your support in helping the College achieve this. Please read though the following advice on how to minimise the spread of any germs/infections within school and have a discussion with your son/daughter about the importance of practicing good hand/respiratory hygiene.

Preventing the spread of germs:

- 'Catch it': Sneeze/ cough into disposable tissues.
- 'Bin it': Dispose of them immediately and appropriately.
- 'Kill it': Wash hands with soap and water regularly or use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are unavailable
- Cleaning hands is particularly important before leaving home, after using the toilet, before cooking and eating, after breaks and sport activities and on arrival at any educational setting.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Do not share items that have contact with your mouth such as drinking bottles/flasks.
- If unwell, avoid sharing items such as pens and pencils.

Symptoms of coronavirus

The symptoms of coronavirus are a cough, a high temperature, shortness of breath. However, these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

Returning travellers

UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough or fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS 111, even if symptoms are mild.



If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February 2020, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran,
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy, (currently, **in the region of Lombardy**: Codogno; Castiglione d'Adda; Casalpusterlengo; Fombio; Maleo; Somaglia; Bertonico; Terranova dei Passerini; Castelgerundo; and San Fiorano. **In the region of Veneto**: Vo'Euganeo.
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of
- South Korea,
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days).

Most recent guidelines state if you have returned from Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini), Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, since February 19th and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111.

Last week's ski trip did go to Northern Italy but did not visit any of the named towns above.

If you are concerned, do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Call [111](tel:111), stay indoors and avoid close contact with other people. Tell 111 about any recent travel and any symptoms you have.

Further useful information:

- Latest information and updates on Coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- Public Health England blog: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

If you have any questions regarding the precautionary measures we are implementing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Denial
Principal