

27th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware there are increasing areas reporting cases of Covid-19 (coronavirus), some within the UK. We are therefore sharing the latest guidance from Public Health England provided to schools which identifies various categories of risk and appropriate preventative measures. I can assure you we are taking all necessary measures to ensure the Health and Safety of our pupils and staff.

There's currently no cause for concern at the school, and there are currently no positive cases identified in the South West.

To help prevent the spread of infection please ensure you and your children follow these general principles used for the prevention of any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water or hand sanitiser
- If you need to cough or sneeze then: Catch It (with a tissue), Bin It (tissue in a bin) and Kill It (wash your hands)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth, such as cups and bottles
- If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils and towels
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

If you, or your children, have returned from the following areas since 19th February call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel, 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)
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)
- Hubei province, China (returned in the past 14 days)

If you, or your children, have returned from the following areas since 19th February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home, avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111. **You do not need to follow this advice if you do not have symptoms**:

- Northern Italy
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you, or your children, have returned from the following areas in the last 14 days and develop symptoms of cough, fever or shortness of breath, you should stay indoors at home, avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the country:

- Other parts of China (outside Hubei province)
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

If you become unwell, with flu-like symptoms (which include Fever, Cough or Difficulty Breathing) then call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or call 999 if you require emergency medical attention). Don't go direct to your GP. Then:

- Avoid contact with others
- Stay at home – don't go to work or school
- Don't travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throw tissues in the bin
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available)

Generally, these infections cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long term conditions (i.e. diabetes, lung disease and cancer). There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups. We have attached guidance provided by Public Health England for your information, please also see the link below for current Devon County Council advice and useful links:

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/coronavirus-advice-from-public-health-england/>

Please take time to read the advice carefully, we will keep you informed if the advice presented to schools changes. Current advice from Public Health England is for schools to remain open. All further updates and communication will be provided via ParentMail, the GTS Website and official Facebook Page.

Yours faithfully



Andy Bloodworth
Headteacher