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Headteacher: Mr R O'Malley

10th March 2020

Dear Parents and Families

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

As a school, we receive daily updates from the Department of Education about the Government response and guidance as to coronavirus. This letter is to point you towards current guidance should you wish to access it.

Washing Hands

The Government is emphasising that washing hands for 20 seconds is central to the expanded public awareness campaign to prevent and slow the spread of coronavirus. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing>

This phase of the campaign focuses on the importance of washing your hands more often, especially:

- when you get to work or arrive home.
- after you blow your nose, cough or sneeze.
- before you eat or handle food.

You should wash your hands for 20 seconds, using soap and water or hand sanitiser. You should also cough or sneeze into tissues before binning them.

Government Advice regarding Schools

With regard to schools, current advice remains in place: no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) coronavirus case unless advised to do so by Public Health England. Schools have the details of Public Health England so we can contact them if we have any related concerns, including that any member of our school community has been potentially exposed to coronavirus.

Government Helpline for families and staff regarding Education

The Government has also launched a new helpline to answer questions about coronavirus related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Government Action Plan

This information is in the context of a wider plan which the Government released last week. You can see the action plan in full at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Keep up with the latest Government advice regarding Coronavirus

You can keep up with the latest advice at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The latest advice as at 8th March includes the following information:-

Risk level

Based on the World Health Organisation's declaration that this is a public health emergency of international concern, the [UK Chief Medical Officers have raised the risk to the UK from low to moderate](#).

Returning travellers

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you have travelled to the UK from the following places in the last 14 days, even if you do not have symptoms:

- Iran, Hubei province in China, [lockdown areas in northern Italy](#), [special care zones in South Korea](#)

Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you have travelled to the UK from the following places in the last 14 days and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, even if your symptoms are mild:

- mainland China outside of Hubei province, Italy outside of the [lockdown areas](#), South Korea outside of the [special care zones](#), Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

Use the [111 online coronavirus service](#) to find out what to do next. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Further assistance?

I appreciate that this is a lot of information and that it refers to accessing the internet through a number of links for more information.

If you need any help from me looking together at the information, accessing the internet or for any other related reason, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Malley
Headteacher