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Headteacher: Mr J Burr ridge BA (Hons) PGCE, MA, NPQH

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Coronavirus (Covid-19) update and advice for families**

As you will be aware, there is an international outbreak of a new virus that has symptoms similar to winter flu. The Government is working closely with the NHS and local councils to make sure that we have good plans in place, if there is an increase in the number of cases in this country.

Coronavirus (also called Covid-19) is generally very mild and symptoms include a fever and a cough. For some people, it can be very serious and so it is important that we try to limit the spread of the infection.

There are a few things that we can all do, that will really help to stop the spread of viruses:

- always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze
- bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home and work environment. Germs can live on some surfaces for hours
- if you are worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or another healthcare environment

Public Health England are regularly reviewing the guidance to people returning from affected countries and the latest advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

Currently, there are three different levels of advice, depending on where people are travelling from.

1. If you have returned from the specific areas listed below since February 19<sup>th</sup>, you should call NHS 111, self-isolate 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 (Bertonico, Terranova dei Passerini, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Somaglia, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, Vo' Eugane, San Fiorano)
  - Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
  - Hubei province (in the last 14 days)

Therefore, if any pupil, parent or staff has come back from any of the areas above since February 19<sup>th</sup>, they should not come to school, follow the PHE advice and let the school know.

2. If you have returned from the areas listed below since February 19<sup>th</sup> and have developed symptoms, however mild, you should self-isolate and avoid contact with other people and call NHS 111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.
  - Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini),
  - Vietnam
  - Cambodia
  - Laos
  - Myanmar
  
3. If you have returned to the UK from any of the areas below in the last 14 days and developed symptoms, however mild, you should self-isolate and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms.
  - China
  - Thailand
  - Japan
  - Republic of Korea
  - Hong Kong
  - Taiwan
  - Singapore
  - Malaysia
  - Macau

‘Self-isolation’ means that you or the person you are caring for should remain in your home, except for getting medical care. Do not go to work, school, religious venues or public areas, and do not use public transport or taxis until you have been told that is safe to do so. You will need to ask for help if you require groceries, other shopping or medications. Alternatively, you can order by phone or online. The delivery instruction needs to state that the items are to be left outside, or in the porch, or as appropriate for your home.

With regards to travel advice for the Easter holidays, we are monitoring the situation closely and are meeting very regularly; we will continue to take advice from Public Health England and will update you as soon as we have further information.

Yours sincerely,



John Burridge  
Headteacher