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5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Further to my letter sent out last Friday regarding measures for promoting personal hygiene as a preventative to spreading illnesses, I detail following further information we have received relating directly to Coronavirus.

1. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus.
2. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. If a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely they have been affected.
3. The symptoms associated with coronavirus include a cough, difficulty in breathing and a fever.
4. From information known so far, the virus is spread when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. The risk of contraction increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person. Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes containing the virus are most likely to be the most important means of transmission.
5. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infections is to follow general principles shared last week:

#### How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

#### How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

### How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

#### If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser

#### You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels

6. Anti-bac sanitiser can be used but children must remain responsible for its use, keeping it within their bags or trays, and not take it outside at break / lunch times. It must not be shared with other children or become a distraction to their learning or that of others.
7. Face masks are not recommended to protect from infection as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.
8. People who have returned from Category 1 countries / areas in the last 14 days should self-isolate. This includes avoiding attending an education setting (Wuhan City and Hubei Province, (China), Iran, Republic of Korea and any Italian town under containment).
9. People who have returned from Category 2 specified countries in the last 14 days are advised to stay at home if they develop symptoms. All other pupils and staff should continue to attend school, including their siblings attending the same or different school (unless advised not to by public health officials). (Category 2 Countries: Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Italy (North), Japan, Laos, Maian, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam).
10. If any member of our school / parent community becomes unwell with coronavirus-like symptoms, NHS111 or 999 in an emergency must be rung.
11. As a school, if we suspect any person in school has been in contact with a suspected case, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. We are advised to continue with our normal school routines and clean the specific areas the person has been in contact with.
12. If a child or staff member has a confirmed case of coronavirus, we will be contacted by the local Public Health Protection Team to discuss and advise on actions/precautions to be taken. They will also advise you accordingly.
13. In the event of a confirmed case, a risk assessment will be undertaken with advice from the local Health Protection Team.
14. If someone within school has been in contact with a confirmed case either by close contact or touch, they are not considered cases but will be asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the last time they had contact with the confirmed case.

As previously advised, advice can be sought from the following government sites:

[https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

We will do our utmost to keep our children safe and ask through our partnership with you to keep us informed of any travel plans to any one of the Category 1 and 2 countries. In the forthcoming weeks, I will keep in contact as new Government advice and guidelines are issued which relate to educational settings.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

*S Arnold*

Mr S Arnold  
Headteacher

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...



