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Head Teacher: Mr S Arnold

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

It is with increasing anxiety we continue to watch and monitor news programmes detailing the spread of the coronavirus and I am aware of the worries we have about keeping our children and family members safe.

As a school, we continue to receive regular updates from the Government and within this letter, I have copied some links which have been shared with us...however, I am sure you will all be aware of the guidelines and recommendations which have been made and broadcast on media sites.

A helpline relating to concerns we might have as staff, pupils or parents has been established: The Department of Education have a helpline up and running to answer questions about COVID19 related to education.

Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687 or email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

Further information can be accessed from:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

At this time, all schools are being strictly advised to follow these guidelines and not to follow the actions other world countries are taking. Along with such guidelines, we have been issued with information concerning children's absences.

As is normal practice, if your child cannot attend school due to illness, absences will be authorised following the receipt of medical information. If your child is experiencing the on-set of a new cough or temperature, it is advised your child self-isolates for seven days. We will authorise such absences with a special code within our school information management system. If you keep your child off school for precautionary measures, we cannot authorise such absences.

If you are choosing to self-isolate, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the absence will be recorded as 'unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances'.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



If you require information concerning symptoms your child may be showing, contact must be made with the NHS on 111; if there are any positive tests and families have to self-isolate, absences will be authorised.

Further information we have received consists of:

1. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice

As of 10 March, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has updated advice about travel to Italy. The FCO is currently advising:

- against all but essential travel to Italy
- against all travel to Hubei Province, in China
- against all but essential travel to the rest of mainland China
- against all travel to the cities of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan in South Korea

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not currently advising against travel to any other country/territory as a result of COVID-19. The latest travel advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>.

Advice has also been updated for travellers returning from Italy. The advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Further information on what you should do if you are asked to self-isolate can be found here:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/02/20/what-is-self-isolation-and-why-is-it-important/>

2. The Importance of Hygiene

Personal hygiene remains the most important way to tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

How to wash your hands properly

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water. Watch this short NHS film for guidance: <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Teach young children how to wash their hands with the NHS handwashing song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

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Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Finally, if schools are instructed to close by the Government, we have re-issued all children with their log-in details for: My Maths; Times Table Rockstars and Bug Club. If there are any problems regarding log-ins, please contact your classteacher and we will endeavour to secure your child's access. This is only an anticipatory action as school will remain open unless staffing shortages compel us to close if we are unable to safeguarding our children and staff fully.

If you have any questions following your reading of this letter and suggested websites, I will do my utmost to help in this period of uncertainty.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Arnold
Headteacher

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