



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are contacting you following the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and abroad, and following the Government's decision to raise to stage 2 - prevention.

We would like to take this opportunity to outline the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection, in the event of an outbreak within the school.

As per the advice from the government, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Putting up coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell and isolating any unwell people in a separate room
- Advising people who have returned from category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to self-isolate for 14 days before they return to school
- Advising people who have returned from category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to stay at home if they develop symptoms – the full list of category 1 and category 2 countries can be found on the government website.

The specific guidelines for stage 2 are:

- Every child should bring in a water bottle and take it home everyday
- Any visitor and parent should use the hand sanitiser provided in reception prior to entering our secure area, and only the reception entrance should be used by parents coming into and out of school. The rear entrance should not be used.
- **Any member of staff who has a high temperature over 37.8, and/or has developed a new continuous cough will be asked to stay off school for 7 days.** We would ask any parent with similar symptoms not to come into school. At the present time families are not being asked to self-isolate so your child may come to school if they are symptom free.

We have taken the decision as a school **not to have family worship after today until further notice.** Worship throughout the week, will take place in the two key stages each day instead. We have also

taken the decision to **cancel the Mother's Day lunch next Friday**, but hope that we can hold it at some point in the future.

We will continue to use Parentmail, facebook, the school website and email to keep you updated as I follow information from Public Health England and the Local Authority.

The Government and Diocese guidance is that schools should remain open at the present time. Therefore school will not be closing, until otherwise instructed.

As an important part of our school community, we would ask that you encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

Unless your child has tested positive for the coronavirus (and hasn't been exposed to anyone with the virus), they should attend school as usual (unless they are too unwell due to an unrelated illness), as per the current government advice.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on 01525 770241 at the earliest opportunity.

We would like to reiterate that these are only preventative measures, in place to anticipate any occurrences of coronavirus within the school.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Sanderson
(Acting Head teacher)