



6 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice

There is currently an extremely low chance of coming into contact with COVID-19 in the UK, as a precautionary measure the government has released advice for educational settings that I would like to share with you.

You can only catch COVID-19 if you have been in close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk will increase the longer someone has close contact with the infected person. The virus is not serious for most people, including children. Most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain. In general, the virus will cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with long-term conditions such as diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

If a person has travelled to areas where many people are infected, their chances of catching the virus are much higher. In the past 14 days, if pupils and parents have travelled to and from (or received visitors/family from) Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China, they should self-isolate and NOT attend school for 14 days and should telephone NHS 111.

The incubation period for COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well for 14 days after exposure to someone with confirmed COVID-19, it is unlikely that they have been infected. If flu-like symptoms such as coughing, difficulty breathing or a fever develop in the 14 days after exposure to an infected person, the individual should stay at home and not go to their GP, pharmacy or hospital and seek guidance from the NHS 111 service.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, there are simple steps you can follow to prevent the virus from spreading:

- Wash your hands often with anti-bacterial handwash for at least 20 seconds (this is equivalent to singing the Happy Birthday song twice) or use a hand sanitiser if washing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport, using the toilet and before eating.
- Catching your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throwing the tissue in the bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces.
- Avoid shaking hands and touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

The school has taken a number of precautionary measures, some of which have been outlined above, including stringent procedures for hand washing and additional cleaning of communal areas and common touch zones. To help support these precautionary measures please also ensure your child washes their hands thoroughly before leaving home in the morning.

Please be aware that the government advice is being frequently updated and school will share these updates as and when appropriate. Further details on the information provided in this letter is available using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>.

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Singh'.

Mr M Singh
Headteacher