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Dear Parents and Carers

Update on Corona Virus (COVID-19) precautions in school

In order to help minimise the spread of COVID-19, the school is following **COVID-19: guidance for educational settings**, available on GOV.UK. This advises what measures we should take in school, as well as what to do if a case is suspected or if someone returns from a 'category 1 area/country. Here is a summary of what the school is doing:-

Initial precautionary measures in school

- Assemblies for all students on the importance of regular and correct handwashing and reminder of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs/sneezes etc. Reminders in tutor time.
- Three specific times each day introduced, when all students will wash hands with soap/water or alcohol based sanitisers (ie on arrival at school, before lunch and after lunch), plus after sport.
- Students encouraged to wash their hands at other times, at sinks around the school.
- Alcohol based sanitiser is in place for use by all visitors on arrival to/departure from the school.
- Official posters about correct handwashing etc are in place around school and in all rooms.
- Staff briefed about precautionary measures they should take and their role in monitoring/encouraging student hygiene.
- Ensuring there is no panic or overreaction in school.

Other action in school

- We monitor government advice on a daily basis for updates.
- We understand action to take if a student/staff member returned from a Category 1 area – ie Wuhan/Hubei (China), Iran, Daegu/Cheongdo (Korea), Italian areas subject to containment.
- We use the dedicated helpline for schools if we need specific advice (eg on future school trips/visits).
- We monitor student/staff absence and return from absence.
- We understand action to take in case of a suspected/actual case. See extract below from the current guidance.

Suspected case: If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in a school, no restrictions or special control measures are required while laboratory test results for COVID-19 are awaited. There is no need to close the setting or send other learners or staff home.

Confirmed case: The school will be contacted by Public Health England to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and advise on any actions/precautions that should be taken. An assessment of each school will be undertaken by PHE with relevant staff. Advice on the management of students/staff will be based on this assessment. If there is a confirmed case, a risk assessment will be undertaken with advice from the local Health Protection Team. In most cases, closure of the school will be unnecessary but this will be a local decision based on various factors.

Preparation in case of future disruption to school

- The school is considering its response in the event of any future government instruction to institute a partial/whole school closure. In such a scenario, we would follow all government advice and consult with other schools, the LA, Diocese, exam boards and any other relevant bodies. We will prioritise continued education for those sitting public exams this summer. Current advice is that all students should continue their preparations for exams on the assumption that these will still take place in accordance with the current published exam timetable.

PTO

National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The exam regulator, OFQUAL, has today issued the following advice:-

We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.

I would be grateful if you could bear the following points in mind at this time.

- Continue to encourage your children to wash their hands carefully and regularly for 20 seconds with soap/water or sanitiser.
- Remind your children that if they need to sneeze/cough, to do so carefully into disposable tissues.
- Remind your children to avoid touching their mouth nose or face as much as possible.
- If you are able to provide your child with a sanitiser, that would be a great help but we appreciate the difficulties in obtaining stocks.
- If your child or a member of the child's family has returned from a Category 1 area (areas detailed earlier in this letter), do not send your child to school. Follow medical guidance from PHE and contact the school by phone, asking for your child's Head of Year or a senior member of staff.
- If your child falls ill and you believe they have been exposed to Coronavirus, EITHER through travel to a Category 1 area OR through contact with a confirmed case, GOV.UK advice currently is to call NHS 111 (or 999 in a life threatening situation).

Helpline for parents

The helpline available to schools is also available to parents as follows:-

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

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

I will keep you updated on any developments and thank you for your support and co-operation.

Best wishes.



J Foster
Headteacher