

9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Coronavirus advice - update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I've included below an update on our Coronavirus contingency planning. Please be aware this is consistent with what all schools are doing and reflects national guidelines which you can follow in the media (e.g. BBC news).

- 1) We are encouraging students via assemblies, tutor time and posters around school to **follow public health advice**: regular and thorough hand-washing (e.g. when they arrive at school, or before they eat); avoid touching their face with unclean hands; avoid shaking hands; catch and bin sneezes with a tissue (or in their sleeve if no tissue). **Please reinforce these points with your children too.**
- 2) The signs you have the virus are fever, cough, shortness of breath. However, these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have it. If your child has these symptoms, please call NHS Direct on 111 and they will advise you.
- 3) **In the current phase of the virus, schools are open and students should be attending daily.** A suspected case of Coronavirus is not grounds for school closure. It's only if there were a confirmed case that we would close for a period of time to deep clean and then re-open. It may be that, as the virus spreads, the government decides to close schools for a fixed period, but that is not the current policy and parents should be sending their children to school as normal. Absence without good reason will not be authorised. We would like to reassure parents that if we did have to close we would be in touch with plans for home learning throughout that period.
- 4) If your child has come into close contact with anyone who have travelled from an affected area in the last 14 days (Hubei Province in China; Iran; Lockdown areas of Northern Italy or South Korea) please call NHS 111 and alert the school to this.

We appreciate this may be an anxious time and want to reassure all parents the school is following all relevant advice and guidelines, and has contingency plans in place. If you have questions about the virus, they are probably best directed at NHS 111 (either the phone line or internet site). We will issue further email updates to parents as required.

Yours sincerely,



**David Benson**  
Principal