

Coronavirus

13th March 2020

Dear Parents

I thought it might be useful to update you on the school's Coronavirus planning.

We are following the Public Health Agency advice and I have been in contact with them several times this week.

These are the steps we have put in place in school:

- We remain focused on encouraging regular handwashing with soap and hot water for 20 seconds as the most effective way to reduce the spread of any infection. Children do find this difficult so continue to reinforce this at home. We are encouraging the children to wash hands before eating at break and lunch and after visiting the toilets
- All our bathrooms are routinely replenished with antibacterial handwash
- All cleaning products routinely used in school are antibacterial
- We have posters on display in school reminding our pupils to wash their hands
- The pupils are reminded to use tissues to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'
- We are reminding pupils to keep hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth
- We will not be having whole school assemblies
- All children should bring their own water bottles as we are not using the communal drinking fountains
- Can we ask all parents to please wash your hands before and after coming into school

The school **does not** have any reported cases of pupils or staff who have been in direct contact with someone who is infected.

If you suspect your child is ill, please keep them at home. If anyone in your household is showing symptoms to those related to coronavirus please inform school. We have a duty of care to protect all our pupils, staff and their families.

We continue to await guidance from the Department of Education with regard to whole school closure. If we receive this information we will immediately notify you by a message, through the app and on the school website. We will probably not get much notice, so it would be advisable for all parents to make some emergency plans for that eventuality.

The staff are currently preparing the children for remote learning from home. Each class teacher is preparing a list of activities that pupils can work on should they be off for a prolonged period. Each teacher is setting up a virtual classroom using Google Classroom. More detailed information will follow should this happen. This will require parental support.

I trust this information is helpful and provides some reassurances. Please remember to visit www.publichealth.hscni.net for the most up-to-date information. In this time of uncertainty, I ask that you continue to work with us. If you have any questions, please contact school.

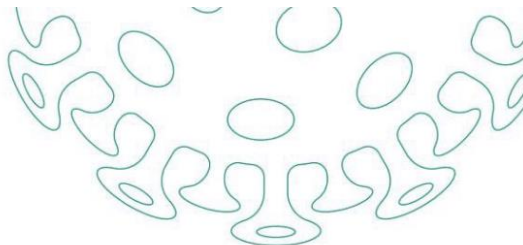
Yours faithfully

J McMillan

Principal



Public Health
England



Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it
by washing
your hands with
soap & water or
hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks
& sport
activities



Before
cooking
& eating



SCHOOL
ETC.
On arrival at
any childcare
or educational
setting



After using
the toilet



Before
leaving
home



Try not to touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth
with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come
into contact with your mouth
such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items
such as bedding, dishes,
pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19. Parents can visit NHS.UK to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See NHS.UK for advice on coronavirus.



If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately