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Headteacher: Mr T Miller



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Coronavirus Update

Following my email yesterday, I would like to update you about the school's response to the coronavirus now that the government has announced the move from the "contain" phase of the virus to the "delay" phase, i.e. to attempt to slow down the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19 infection. More draconian measures are likely if/when the number of people infected increases but at present it is business as usual.

The government has now announced:

1. That anyone with a persistent cough or high temperature should self-isolate for seven days. Given the time of year, this will obviously apply to a number of students over the coming weeks, regardless of whether or not they have coronavirus. Thank you in advance for helping us to uphold this measure, we appreciate that this will have ramifications for a number of families. We have the facility to take student's temperatures at school; should they present with any symptoms we will contact you should the need arise. Please follow the normal procedure for notifying the school of an absence. Updated guidance giving detailed information about self-isolation is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
2. A ban on all school trips abroad from this Friday. Our next school trip abroad is not until May half term (Malaga Sports Tour) and the government has not stipulated an end point to the ban, therefore, it is unclear whether that will be affected. At this point in time, we have not ruled out the trip from going ahead. Likewise trips to Barcelona, Normandy and Amsterdam scheduled for later in the summer term. We will notify you immediately of any change.

At the time of writing there are still no known cases of coronavirus amongst students or staff in our schools. We are continuing to monitor and adhere to the advice coming from the Department of Education and Public Health England. We will continue to have an increased emphasis on promoting good basic hygiene habits, systematic approaches to cleaning and vigilance about signs of infection. If a member of our community becomes infected we will be in touch with you immediately with instructions of next steps.

We all remain determined to "stay calm and carry on" as long as we can without jeopardising the wellbeing of the students and staff. We have also been making preliminary plans in the event of any future school closures.

Please rest assured that we will continue to take a sensible approach to the situation at school and do all we can to reassure the children and prevent them from becoming unduly anxious.

Thank you for your ongoing support to rise to this and other challenges. We will be in touch with further updates in due course.

God bless

Mr T Miller
Headteacher