



*"We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together"*

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Dear parents and carers

### **CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE**

You will be aware that I wrote to you last week to address concerns raised in relation to families returning from travelling over the Half Term break. Specific instructions were given in relation to what families should do when returning from identified areas of risk in relation to the coronavirus.

Today you will probably be aware that there has been a confirmed case of coronavirus in Stevenage. This has caused some further understandable concern among some families. I am writing today to assure you that the school is following closely the advice of Public Health England, the local Health Authority and officials at Hertfordshire County Council. I personally check the advice on a daily basis to ensure that we are implementing the most up to date measures.

I have attached a summary of the advice, coordinated by Public Health England, which is displayed in prominent positions throughout the school. This is included in Appendix 1 to this letter. The children are all encouraged to develop good hygiene habits and these, since the alert, have been heightened in our dealings with all children. The key messages are:

- 'catch it, bin it, kill it' in terms of coughs and sneezes; and
- regularly washing hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Please could I ask that you continue to reinforce messages of good hygiene at home too as the impact is greater for our children when we are working in partnership to deliver these key messages. Tissues are available in each class; however, access to small pack of personal tissues may well be of use.

As I communicated last week, we have also been liaising with our cleaning contractors to ensure that increased measures are in place in relation to those areas where there is a heightened risk of cross contamination (door plates, handles etc).

**We have been advised that currently there is no need for children to stay away from school unless they are displaying coronavirus symptoms and you are following the advice of a medical professional sought by the NHS 111 service.**

I attach the travel advice in relation to self-isolation again (please see appendix 2) for those who may have been travelling or who plan to travel.

I will keep you updated as and when advice changes.

Yours sincerely

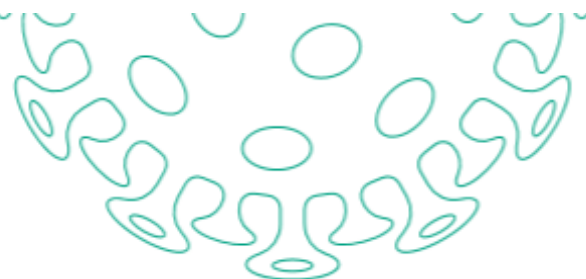
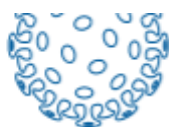
Mr J W J White  
Headteacher

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## Appendix 1: Advice from Public Health England for places of education



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



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](https://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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.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](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.

**If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately**



## **Appendix 2: Advice from Public Health England in relation to returning from travel**

On 25.02.20 the Chief Medical Advisor for England, Chris Whitty, updated advice for travellers returning to the UK from specific areas affected by COVID-19 as follows:

If you have returned from the following specific areas since 19th February, you should call NHS 111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:

- Lockdown areas in Northern Italy (see link to maps below)
- Special care zones in South Korea (see link to maps below)
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days – see links to maps below)

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS 111:

- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini – see link to maps below)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

If you have a cough, or fever or shortness of breath and have visited any of the following areas in the last 14 days, stay indoors and call NHS 111 informing them of your recent travel:

- China, apart from Hubei province (see link to maps below)
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea, apart from special care zones (see link to maps below)
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau

***Maps showing affected regions of China, Republic of Korea and Italy:***

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

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