



25/02/2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

I am writing to reassure you that the school is following the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Authority to ensure the health of our whole community, including pupils and staff.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. The Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England (PHE) are carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation and have published information and advice for the general public and for schools.

PHE published 'Guidance to educational settings about COVID-19', which is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>.

This guidance assists schools and other educational settings in providing advice for pupils, students, staff and parents or carers regarding:

- the novel coronavirus, COVID-19;
- how to help prevent spread of all respiratory infections including COVID-19;
- what to do if someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 has been in a school or other educational setting; and
- what advice to give to individuals who have travelled from countries detailed in the guidance within the last 14 days

Hygiene practices, such as regularly washing hands and always sneezing into a tissue is the best way to prevent the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus. We are actively encouraging this in school and know that you will be ensuring this continues at home. In addition to this, we will now be having anti-bacterial hand gel in the office reception area and in each classroom. Children will obviously have clean hands when they arrive at school in the morning, having washed them at home, but we will use the anti-bacterial gel for each of them before the school day starts. Throughout the rest of the school day, children will be reminded to wash their hands regularly as usual. We will also ask all staff and visitors to use the hand gel when they come into school.

Please check the online advice for the latest and most up-to-date information <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

and the PHE blog for further information <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Yours faithfully,

Kareen O'Brien