

24 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education issued new guidance for schools last week in respect of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The most important point to emphasise is that **Public Health England continues to advise that the risk to individuals remains low**. The number of cases confirmed in the UK remains very small. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

Some pupils, or their families, may have travelled overseas during the half term break. Even for those pupils, the circumstances in which any action needs to be taken are very limited:

- In the unlikely event that an individual **has travelled from anywhere in Hubei Province, including Wuhan, in the past 14 days**, they should call NHS 111 for advice regarding self-isolation
- Anyone who **has travelled from elsewhere in China (outside Wuhan and Hubei Province) or Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan or Thailand** in the last 14 days, **and has become unwell**, should also call NHS 111 for advice regarding self-isolation. If they are currently well, however, they should continue to attend work or school as normal and do not need to take any other precautions.

If you or your child falls into any of the categories described above, I would be grateful if you would contact the school to make us aware, even if it is not necessary for you to take any other action.

At the time of writing, I am aware that new infections are being reported, including what appears to be the first significant European outbreak in Northern Italy. We will continue to update parents if the advice that we receive from the government changes.

The most important advice of all from Public Health England is a reminder about the importance of basic preventative hygiene, and particularly of hand-washing, which reduces significantly the risk of transmitting not just COVID-19 but also many other seasonal viral illnesses. Staff will be emphasising this point with pupils over the coming days, and I would be grateful for your support in also encouraging your child to follow this advice.

For the latest government advice, please check the following webpage, which is being updated regularly:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Yours faithfully



Ms J Harlow
Headteacher