

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

I am contacting you following the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and abroad. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of all children, their families and staff is of paramount importance to us; and to outline the preventative measures each school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As an Educational Trust, we are following the Government guidelines with regards to COVID-19. Unless your child has tested positive for the coronavirus (or has been exposed to anyone who has tested positive with the virus and is showing symptoms), they should attend school as usual (unless they are too unwell due to an unrelated illness).

Each school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Putting up coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
  - Before leaving home
  - On arrival at school
  - After using the toilet
  - After breaks and sporting activities
  - Before food preparation
  - Before eating any food, including snacks
  - Before leaving school
- For those schools that have hand sanitisers, encouraging the use of hand sanitisers throughout the school. For those schools without hand sanitisers, we are in the process of sourcing these.
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual

If you or your child presents with symptoms, the latest government guidance is as follows:

**What to do if you have symptoms**

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough

This will help to protect others in your community while you are infectious. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them you're staying at home. We will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms.

If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online. If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you encourage good hygiene practices at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to minimise the spread of infection.

We will keep you fully informed if the situation changes or the Government issues new advice and guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Kelly  
Chief Executive Officer