



Dear Parents / Carers

Novel coronavirus

I am writing to parents due to the current situation regarding the coronavirus. Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. I would like 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.

It is hard, if not impossible, to predict what will happen but it does seem clear that the virus is both easily contracted and transmitted, as well as a significant risk to health, particularly for those with an impaired or a less robust immune system. I am aware at present that the situation will affect very few families, but I am sure you will appreciate we are keen to be proactive in our communication with parents.

As you may already be aware, there has been an increase in the confirmed number of cases in Italy over the weekend, principally in the Lombardy and Veneto regions, which are currently quarantined by the Italian government.

As of this morning, the Department of Health has changed its advice to British holidaymakers returning to the UK from Italy and has stated that people flying home from any areas currently quarantined by the Italian government should self-isolate for 14 days, whether they are currently showing symptoms or not. Anyone returning from north of Pisa (not including Lombardy and Veneto) has been told to self-isolate if they show flu-like symptoms.

We have been asked to advise families of the following, as a precaution, if you have visited northern Italy recently:

Family members should monitor themselves and follow NHS in the event of presenting with symptoms similar to flu. Please note that GP surgeries are advising that, in the first instance, you should call 111 for advice and information and NOT go to the doctor's surgery.

Symptoms of coronavirus

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

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.

The Department of Health and Social Care and 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

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 sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Oakley". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large 'K' and a long, sweeping underline for the 'y'.

Miss K Oakley

Headteacher



The Warwick School

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