



Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that the news headlines are dominated by the spread of coronavirus in Europe.

While there are currently a small number of confirmed cases in England (none in the West Midlands), the risk to individuals remains low.

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your child catching the coronavirus and there is no reason why they shouldn't continue to attend school as normal.

The Government and the NHS is advising everyone to use some simple but effective precautions which will help protect you and your family against this infection.

Please make sure everyone in your family:

- Covers their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze
- Puts used tissues in the bin immediately
- Washes their hands with soap and water often (including before preparing and eating food, including snacks)
- Avoids touching their eyes, nose or mouth if their hands are not clean.

These simple precautions will also protect things like the common cold and other flu-type illnesses.

The Government is closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus and is taking action at home and abroad, including providing travel advice for people who may be returning to the UK from affected areas. These may be relevant in light of the half-term holiday and forthcoming Easter break.

- Anyone who has returned from China, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau in the last 14 days and is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus (a cough, fever or shortness of breath) should stay indoors, avoid contact with others and call NHS 111, even if their symptoms are mild.
- Anyone who has returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy (10 small towns in Lombardy and one in Veneto), 'special care zones' in South Korea or Hubei province in China since 19 February should stay indoors, avoid contact with other people for at least 14 days and call NHS 111, even if they do not have symptoms of coronavirus.
- Anyone who has returned from the following areas since 19 February who develops symptoms of cough or fever or shortness of breath, however mild, should stay indoors at home, avoid contact with other people immediately and for at least 14 days and call NHS 111 (you do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms): Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Northern Italy

Government advice states that school closures are not required for any schools with suspected cases involving pupils or staff.

If you have any further concerns you can get health and travel advice at the following websites:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>.

Please may I take this opportunity to reiterate the fact that, as the risk to individuals remains low, you should not be unduly worried about the possibility of you or your child catching the coronavirus.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dean Coombes', written over a horizontal line.

Dean Coombes
Head Teacher