Dear Parents / Carers,

I know that in the current situation many of you will be concerned about the spread of Coronavirus and your children’s safety. I want to reassure you that we are doing everything that we can to protect your children and I also want to inform you about everything that we are doing.

I understand that many of you would like more information about this and we will now be sending out a daily update on the school app. Please can I ask that you do check the app regularly and read communications from school. I have heard about rumours being circulated on social media, many of which are completely untrue (you may have heard that a sick child was sent home with coronavirus – this is completely false). Please do be careful about listening to these as information is often exaggerated or written by people who are not in a position to know.

Please also note that many more people are now being asked to self-isolate, this is very much a precaution from government and does not mean that they have the virus. **Any children with self-isolating family members must not come to school.**

**We are currently taking the following measures to keep your children safe:**

- We are alert to all information. Where parents are travelling or have received medical advice we investigate each case individually. These are not large in number and in all cases I have been satisfied that the parents have dealt with this in line with medical advice and in a way that does not put our children at risk.
- Staff are extremely vigilant about handwashing and hygiene. Children are reminded about this regularly (see our handwashing video sent out on the app) and any child showing signs of an illness is taken immediately to the office and checked by a qualified member of staff. **To date we have not had any concerns that any child has the coronavirus.**
- Our soap dispensers are checked every day to ensure we have enough soap available in the toilets. Additionally we have hand soap available in every classroom for children to wash hands as required. Our school is now being cleaned with hospital grade cleaning materials (thanks to Mr Gordon!)
- Any parents self-isolating must not bring their children to school.
- All school trips this term are now cancelled.

**What you can do to help**

- Do not bring your child to school if they are unwell or if a member of your household is unwell. Seek medical advice first and contact us by phone or email to agree attendance.
- Inform the school if a member of your household has returned from a trip outside of the UK or is self-isolating (and follow government guidance).
- Ensure that emergency contact details for your child are correct and that we have at least two contacts whom we can reach without delay.
- Read communications from school.

**You may well have further questions and we are having a meeting for all on Monday 16th in the school hall at 9am. I will be available to discuss any concerns that you have. I look forward to seeing you then.**

Finally please can I ask you to always speak to school staff calmly and politely. We do realise that some of you are anxious but our wonderful office staff are not responsible and they are doing their absolute best. They do a wonderful job keeping our school running. Please do treat them accordingly.

Thank you.

Matthew Shapland