

2nd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Coronavirus**

All schools in England have received guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education around travel advice for people visiting countries affected by the Coronavirus and attending school upon their return.

If you have recently taken, or are planning to take, your son/daughter to any of the following countries please let a member of the attendance team know by calling the school on 01642 289211 or emailing [l.king@redcar.outwood.com](mailto:l.king@redcar.outwood.com)

- China
- Thailand
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong
- Taiwan
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Macau
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar
- Italy
- Iran

Current guidance is if a person has visited one of the above countries in the last 14 days and has experienced a cough, fever or shortness of breath, then they should stay indoors and call NHS 111 for further guidance.

If a person has visited Iran, Wuhan or Hubei Province in China, certain locked down areas of Northern Italy or special care zones in South Korea in the last 14 days they should stay indoors and contact NHS 111, irrespective of whether they have symptoms or not.

Please note that this advice is changing regularly and you can check the current guidance at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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Students are also being given guidance by staff about good hygiene, which includes:

- Use of tissues to catch a cough or sneeze, then binning the tissue and washing hands.
- Washing hands frequently, particularly after using public transport, before leaving home, on arrival at school, after using the toilet, after breaks and sporting activities, before food preparation, before eating any food, before leaving school.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

The school is in the process of ensuring that hand sanitiser is available in key places, including toilets and dining. If you are aware that your child has any allergies relating to an alcohol-based sanitiser, please ensure that you contact the school and let us know immediately.

The precautions we are taking will assist the school in responding to any further government advice quickly and will enable us to pass on any guidance to affected families where necessary.

Further Public Health England information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>.

Current government advice is that these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.

You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your child catching the Coronavirus. There is no reason why your child should not continue to attend school as normal: good attendance is essential for your child's education. As you will be aware from news bulletins, current guidance in the UK is to carry on our daily activities as normal but be extra careful in terms of personal hygiene and take further precautions if travelling to one of the named more at risk countries.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully



Gemma Trattles  
Principal

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