



13th March 2020

Dear Parents

Yesterday the British Prime Minister in conjunction with The Chief Medical Officer confirmed that the UK is moving from the Contain phase to the Delay phase in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

The advice from the government is that schools should remain open and continue with normal classes at present. The message coming across is that children and healthy young adults are less affected by this virus and more likely to quickly recover.

We are following this advice for now, so the schools will be open on Monday 16th March as usual. This policy will be subject to review depending on developments next week and further government and medical advice. To date, we have no known cases of coronavirus.

All overseas educational trips are now advised against.

On this point we have many international families at our schools, and Easter holidays rapidly approaching. We would suggest that you consider not to travel abroad with your family if you can avoid it, to avoid flights and airports / Eurostar and all public transport (including taxis) as much as possible. There is also likely to be an increasing risk that you could become stranded abroad if more and more countries go into lock down / cancel international transport. However this is of course your decision.

The Government has withdrawn its advice on individuals returning from affected countries abroad, stating that this has now been superseded by the 'Stay at home' advice. However, the school asks that families and staff who have recently returned from the following areas refrain from visiting the schools for 14 days after their return to the UK: Hubei area of China, mainland China, Iran, Italy, North Korea, Special Care Zones in South Korea – Daegu and Cheongdo, and designated areas in France (Oise, Balme Valley in Haute-Savoie, Morbihan Haut-Rhin and Corsica).

We are conscious that the schools may have to temporarily close at some time in the near future, and are taking steps to provide online education and lessons at distance to all our children in this circumstance. So school will continue before and after the Easter holiday period.

We understand that the current situation in France is different as of today, which raises questions and perhaps some confusion for you, but for the moment we continue to follow the AEFÉ (in relation with the French Embassy) and UK government guidelines.

The guidelines state that:

- if anyone starts to show symptoms they should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact for 7 days*
- if the symptoms worsen during this period or have not improved, the person should contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk for advice on what to do*
- it is recommended that they do not go to a surgery or hospital until they have done this*
- they should try not to have contact with vulnerable people (elderly and infirm or those with low immune systems)*
- they should avoid as much social interaction as possible*

The typical symptoms appear to be:

- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees and above*
- A new continuous cough*
- Shortness of breath*

In the meantime please continue to follow the recommended hygiene practices:

- Regular and thorough (20 seconds) hand washing with soap and water or antibacterial gel*
- Wash hands before touching food*
- Do not share drinking or eating utensils*
- Cleaning surfaces, handles, bannisters with antibacterial wipes or spray*
- Clean items you use and carry around with you – mobile phones, keys, pens, spectacles, bags, gloves and clothes with antibacterial wipes or sprays*
- Open windows to prevent germs building up*
- Cover your mouth with your sleeve if you sneeze or cough*
- Keep a safe distance (2 meters) from others whenever you can*
- No hand shaking or hugging*
- Take your temperature twice a day*

Rest assured, dear Parents, of our continuous close monitoring of the situation and of the full commitment of all teams within our school.

Best regards

The Heads