



28<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parents

Further to our letter of 10<sup>th</sup> February before the holidays, we write to you further regarding the school's current policy regarding Coronavirus.

**Please be assured that to date we do not have any Coronavirus cases at school.**

We are monitoring the evolution of the Coronavirus situation on a daily basis and following the information and advice issued by British and French authorities.

The WHO has now declared that this is a public health emergency of international concern, and whilst the UK has so far identified few cases (only 15 positive out of 7,690 tested at today's date), it is in all our best interests that we take precautions of a proactive nature to try to minimise the potential impact and spread of this virus. This is not a moment to panic or over-react, however, it is a moment to take serious and responsible decisions, and in this context our absolute priority is the safety and well-being of our pupils and all their families.

In line with Government and UK Health Officers advice, we therefore request that you adhere to the current school policy for the return from school holidays, that if you and / or your children / or other persons who you have had contact with have visited the list of countries and regions listed below, that you and your children do not attend school for a minimum period of 14 days after the date of your return:

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

All parts of Italy north of and including Pisa, Florence and Rimini  
Tenerife (in particular the H10 Costa Adeje Palace Hotel)

If you or your family fall into this category, please respect this directive and do not come to school on Monday, but inform us by email of your situation.

Should this be your case, we will, of course, put into place an individual continuation of your child's educational courses and homework "at distance."

This policy and list of countries will be kept under review and can be subject to change at any time.

As a note of reassurance, most cases of Coronavirus appear to be mild, involving flu like symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath, and do not lead to serious consequences. But we must be super vigilant.

If you or any member of your family, having travelled to these countries or been in contact with someone who has, are experiencing these symptoms, even if mild, please call your GP or NHS 111, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people immediately, especially the elderly and fragile. And if you have not travelled, but are experiencing these symptoms, still contact your GP or NHS 111 for tests. Better safe than sorry.

### **School Procedures.**

All visitors during the school day will from now on be asked to confirm that they do not fall into the above categories to be allowed to enter the school premises.

It will not be practicable to check all parents and carers at drop-off and collection, so we ask you to self-regulate, to take a common-sense approach and to follow these guidelines in order to minimise risk to the school community and to safeguard the health and welfare of all pupils, members of staff and other parents. L'École de Battersea and Escrime Academy have reviewed their joint activities in the light of the Coronavirus, and decided that the use of fencing masks and gloves could create potential risks, so to act in a pre-emptive way, we will practice fencing for the first two weeks of school without using foils, gloves and masks. The children will focus on exercises and footwork discipline and the academics of the blazon. This situation will be reviewed after two weeks.

We will continue to closely monitor this situation and to issue regular reminders to our pupils of the importance of everyday hygiene habits to help to reduce the spread of all germs, and we emphasise that your role in doing the same at home is equally important;

**Points in question to observe:**

- Wash hands several times a day with soap or a sanitised gel.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth without washing hands.
- Try to keep hands low at waist height and not to touch face.
- Always carry tissues and cover a cough with a tissue (or sleeve if no tissue).
- Throw used tissues in bin and wash hands after use.
- Wash hands immediately after using public transport.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

We also count on your vigilance to regularly take the temperature of your child/children, and ask you to inform us of all instances of above 38 deg.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in dealing with the circumstances of this type of event, which cannot always be fully anticipated.

Assuring you of our best attention and care for your children.

Yours sincerely

Frederique Brisset

Principal

Please find below links to the relevant website pages of the British authorities, French authorities and AEFÉ:

**[British authorities website](#)**

**[French authorities website](#)**

**[AEFE website](#)**

**[Coronavirus-how-to-self-isolate-video](#)**

***Disclaimer***

*The school and Escrime Academy reserves its position on all statements made in this letter and can accept no responsibility for any possible contagious Coronavirus events to its pupils, parents and staff.*

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