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Dear Parents / Carers,

Re: COVID-19 Coronavirus

As an added precaution and following advice we are making some slight changes to the way we welcome children into school and hand them back to you at the end of the session. As you know the safety of our children is of utmost importance to us and we will do all we can to keep our school environment as sanitary as possible for them.

To this end we will now greet you at the external doors to each classroom for the children to come in by themselves and pass the children out to you the same way. Likewise the nursery children who go home at 3:00 will be ready in the reception area and will be passed out to you. This may take us a little longer but I'm sure you will agree that it is worth taking all precautions we can.

We will not be allowing anyone into school who does not need to be here for the foreseeable future in a bid to minimise the possibility of contamination.

Once in school children will be encouraged and supported to wash their hands before they begin learning and playing and as per advice will be reminding them to do so regularly throughout the session. We have tissues readily available and ask that you support us in ensuring that all children are able to wipe their own noses and know to put used tissues in the bin and then wash their hands.

We will of course keep you updated with any important information and decisions that are shared with us from the Government and the Local Authority.

You can find the latest government information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

If your child becomes unwell with a high temperature and a dry cough please follow advice and call NHS 111 for more information and let school know that you will be keeping your child at home for the recommended 7 days.

We will endeavour to keep things as normal as possible and will inform you of any changes.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Becky Cook,

Headteacher

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response

1. Information about the virus

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020.

The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 and 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, it is unlikely that they have been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, 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.

2. How COVID-19 is spread

From what we know about other coronaviruses, spread of COVID-19 is most likely to happen when there is close contact (within 2 metres) with an infected person. It is likely that the risk increases the longer someone has close contact with an infected person.

Droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (termed respiratory secretions) containing the virus are most likely to be the most important means of transmission.

There are 2 routes by which people could become infected:

- secretions can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who are nearby (within 2 metres) or could be inhaled into the lungs
- it is also possible that someone may become infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated with respiratory secretions and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes (such as touching a door knob or shaking hands then touching own face).

There is currently no good evidence that people who do not have symptoms are infectious to others.

3. Preventing spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting

- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
- before leaving home
- on arrival at school
- after using the toilet
- after breaks and sporting activities
- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol 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
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).