

Bottisham Community Primary School



Headteacher: Rachael Johnston

Wednesday 26th February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you all today regarding ongoing national concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Firstly, it is important to note that government guidance [click here for full information](#) is making clear that risks are still low with 6,795 of the people in the UK with flu-like symptoms testing negative and only 13 positive. We also need to bear in mind that February is traditionally the peak of the annual flu-season in the UK.

Nevertheless, it is important that we take every necessary step to ensure we are following advice from Public Health England.

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

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- 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](#).

Guidance for travellers returning to the UK from mainland China, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia or Macau is that they should stay indoors and call NHS 111 if they experience symptoms of cough, fever or shortness of breath.

Additionally, travellers returning from:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy. These areas are
 - Bertinico
 - Terranova dei Passerini
 - Castiglione d'Adda
 - Casalpusterlengo
 - Castelgerundo
 - Somaglia
 - Codogno
 - Fombio
 - Maleo
 - Vo' Eugane
 - San Fiorano
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

should immediately:

- stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with the flu
- call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel to the area

Please be reassured that we will continue to monitor the advice from Public Health England and will seek to keep you updated as new information emerges.

Yours faithfully,

Rachael Johnston
Headteacher

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