



26 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware from recent media coverage that there is a lot of information and guidance being circulated regarding the spread of Coronavirus and the potential impact on schools. Given that we have just had a half-term holiday and families may have travelled outside the UK, it is prudent for me to send out some information so that parents are aware of how we are responding to the shifting situation.

We are guided by the updates from Public Health England. The current advice for schools depends on whether pupils have been to a Category 1 or Category 2 classified area. Details on the category areas can be found on the GOV.UK [website](#), which is being updated regularly. If your child has travelled abroad over the last 14 days, please check to see whether the area visited is included on this website. Please let us know immediately if you think your child might be affected.

With specific regard to northern Italy, this region is classified as Category 2. Those who have visited only need to self-isolate if they have been there in the last 14 days **and have flu-like symptoms**. Symptoms include a high temperature, cough and/or shortness of breath.

There are areas within northern Italy which have been identified as 'special care zones' and are on lockdown; these are Category 1. If individuals have been to one of these areas in the last 14 days, they need to self-isolate **even if they have no symptoms**.

I am aware that there are news reports of UK schools that have closed or required pupils to self-isolate. These are schools where pupils have been to Category 1 areas. Currently, we have had no reports of pupils who have visited these areas in the last 14 days.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>.

This is a dynamic situation and we will continue to monitor it in line with advice from Public Health England and the Foreign Office. We have a number of overseas trips coming up and will take a view on these in due course on the basis of the latest advice.

Good hygiene continues to be a key way of minimising the spread of any illness and we will remind pupils of the importance of this. Further information on the symptoms and advice regarding good hygiene is provided by the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

If you have any specific queries, please contact the school on 01434 602533.

Many thanks for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Atkins'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher