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13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: UPDATE REGARDING THE COVID - 19 VIRUS

I am writing to update you regarding the most recent recommendations regarding the COVID-19 virus. The country is moving into the 'delay' phase of the government's 'Action Plan'.

If children or staff in school have **either** a 'high temperature' or a 'new continuous cough' the advice is to stay at home for 7 days. This is to help protect others within the school community. If symptoms are mild people should not attend GP surgeries, pharmacies or hospitals to help prevent the virus from spreading.

The most recent advice is that you do **not** need to ring NHS 111 to tell them your child is staying at home as they will not be testing people who are self-isolating with **mild** symptoms.

After 7 days, if your child feels better and no longer has a high temperature, s/he can return to school. If there have not been any signs of improvement and you have not already sought medical advice, you should contact [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

A cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. A persistent cough alone does not mean your child must continue to self-isolate for more than 7 days – they can return to school. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

If your child is absent we ask that you follow normal school procedures on the first day of absence and inform the school of your child's illness.

If your child is travelling abroad at any point please check the most recent government guidelines and follow any recommendations: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>. Please inform the school if your child has travelled abroad.

Currently, all school trips will continue as planned. Staff will endeavour to take hand sanitiser with them on trips (if available) and will ensure children maintain good hand hygiene. If public health instruct us not to attend school trips or we do not have enough staff to manage a trip we will postpone the trip and reschedule for a later date – we will not be able to refund trip money, as the trip will already have been paid for.

Condover Hall trip: Currently, there are no plans to cancel this trip. If public health instruct schools not to attend residential trips in this country we will follow their advice. In this event we will work with Condover Hall to ensure that parents are reimbursed. The company have insurance in the event of this type of instruction.

We have posted a link on our website to NHS handwashing advice and the NHS handwashing song. Please share these with your families.

Please be aware that we are currently in the period of time when children are at higher risk of developing Scarlet Fever. These symptoms are very similar to COVID-19 but children typically develop a **rash** or very **flushed cheeks**. It is also very infectious. Children with Scarlet Fever may require antibiotics and you should communicate with your GP if you suspect they may have this condition, do not presume it is COVID-19.

We do **not** have any confirmed case of COVID-19 in school.

We will continue to update you with any information we are given by the Local Authority and the Department for Education. If you have any question, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Christiansen
Head of School