4 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Coronavirus, COVID-19 information sharing

I am writing to share the latest information from Public Health England about the Coronavirus, COVID-19. The information contains steps to help to prevent the spread of infection as well as information about travel.

The steps identified to help prevent the spread of the virus are:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren’t available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don’t attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home
- If you’re worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don’t go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

Public Health England have indicated that face masks for the general public, students or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

I can reassure you that at Brentside we have no specific concerns, but obviously we are following the advice issued by the government. The full information from Public Health England can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19

Please find the key details summarised below:

If you have returned from a Category 1 area (listed below) since 19 February 2020 call NHS 111 to inform them of your recent travel, stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms. You should not come to school/go to work.

If you have returned from a Category 2 area (listed below) since 19 February 2020, and are currently well:
  - you should go to school/work unless you develop symptoms (cough, difficulty breathing and/or a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher).
If your child becomes unwell:
  - they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people as they would with other flu viruses
  - you should call NHS 111 immediately to be assessed by an appropriate specialist, as quickly as possible.

**Category 1 areas:**

Wuhan city and Hubei province, China, Iran, Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea and Northern Italy (any Italian town under containment measures, see the map [here](#)).

**Category 2 areas:**

China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini) and the Republic of Korea (except areas referred to in Category 1).

The areas identified as Category 1 and Category 2 may change and so here is the link for you to check the latest information:


If you have any specific concerns and would like to use the Department for Education Coronavirus helpline, the contact details are as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday), email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

The Department for Education have stated that “No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England”.

You can find the latest information as follows: [https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

We appreciate that this is a worrying time for members of our school community. I would like to reassure you that if we suspect any possible risk to our students and staff that we will immediately contact Public Health England for advice and guidance.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Arwel Jones
Headteacher