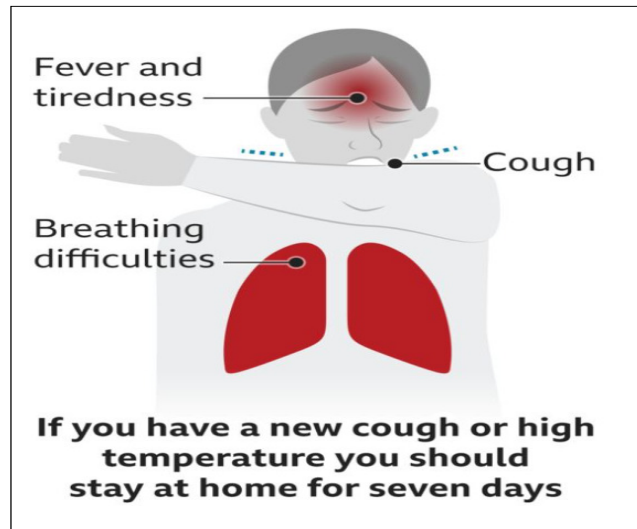


Dear Parents,

Further to the Government's announcements yesterday, I am writing to update you on changes to the measures we should all be taking regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which has now been classified as a worldwide pandemic.

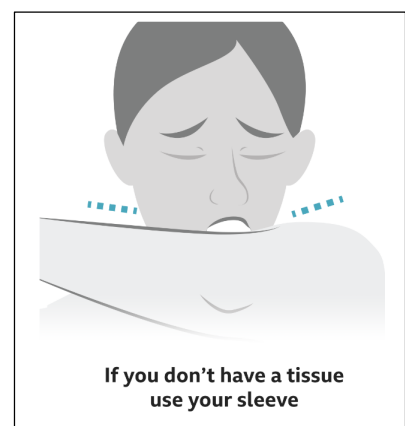
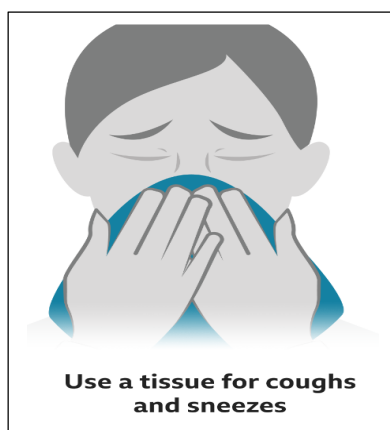
It is everyone's responsibility to follow the Government's guidelines to protect ourselves, others and slow down the spread of the virus.

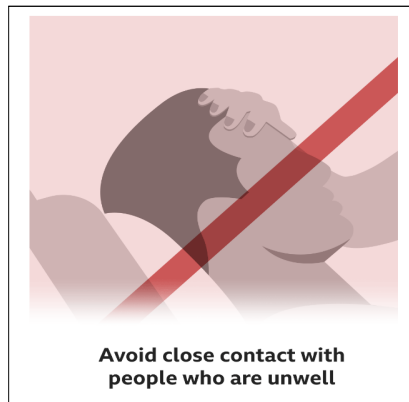
What are the symptoms?



Anyone who feels unwell should self-isolate for 7 days, if you have symptoms, and particularly if you develop a new, continuous cough or have a fever or high temperature (above 37.8 degrees).

How should you protect yourself?





Everyone should follow the Government, Public Health England and NHS 111 advice and control measures. Key websites for information regarding this are:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Parents may also phone NHS 111 for advice regarding symptoms.



Within school

Within school we are following the Department for Education and Public Health England's advice stringently. We are receiving daily updates and following this guidance absolutely. We have:

- Significantly increased our hygiene procedures, which have very much become part of our daily routine now:
- The children have had specific lessons and discussions in class about the importance of hand washing and been shown how to do this properly (with soap, correct technique and for 20 seconds, singing the 'Happy Birthday' song). As our children are so young, we have not used the term 'coronavirus' with them and chosen instead to discuss germs, bugs and the importance of keeping clean to be healthy.
- All staff and children are washing hands on entry to school and exit. Regular handwashing is taking place throughout the day including before eating.
- We have been catching coughs and sneezes in tissues or in our elbow, before binning tissues and washing hands – the 'catch it, bin it, wash your hands' message is being reiterated.
- Adequate stocks of soaps, tissues and paper towels are available in all classrooms and central areas, and are being replenished as required.

- Additional, deeper cleaning and more frequent disinfecting of 'high touch' areas is taking place by our cleaning staff as well as school staff.
- We have reduced the number of visitors to the site and school building. All visitors are being asked to wash their hands on entry and exit, as well as being asked various 'screening' questions. N.B. We would also ask parents to drop off their children at the classroom doors and avoid coming into the building if at all possible.
- We continue to follow our usual absence procedures and as such parents will be contacted via phone or text to ascertain reasons for absence on the first day of absence. Parents should continue to contact us as soon as possible to inform us of these reasons.
- If a child falls ill during the school day we will contact parents or send anyone home if we feel that they have any of the identified coronavirus symptoms.

We are trying to keep everything very much as normal for the children and run the school day with the usual fun, exciting activities, ensuring that we are taking protective and preventative measures without anything affecting them.

If there are ultimately confirmed cases in school we will follow Department for Education advice, inform parents and follow the recommended self-isolation guidelines. Deeper cleans or closure for a period may be required as part of this process. We would ask all parents to keep us fully informed of symptoms and confirmed cases within their families, to ensure everyone's safety.

General Information

Any child or adult with an underlying health condition should contact GPs/Consultants to seek advice on their condition and inform the School Office as necessary.

All of us are also being asked to consider modifying our behaviours at this stage of the outbreak. It is up to each family to make decisions on this and whether they follow any 'social distancing' advice (the websites above again have relevant guidance regarding this).

We are all being urged to think about the more vulnerable members of our family and neighbours, particularly the elderly or those with underlying health conditions and to help and support each other over the coming weeks. Please ensure that any of these more vulnerable of your family members are not put at undue risk.

As yet we have not been instructed to postpone any school events which involve large gatherings, however, we are currently considering our options and responsibilities regarding this due to the fast-moving situation.

Should anyone have any further queries or need any further advice, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to do our best to help.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing support. I'm sure that if we all keep ourselves informed and follow the required guidelines we will be able to support each other through the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

F. Hamilton
Headteacher