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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to provide you with an update of our plans regarding the spread of COVID-19, or the Coronavirus. As you will be reading, the number of cases is growing and I wanted to inform you of our up to date strategy in coping with this.

In school, students are being reminded about the need for good hygiene. We have posters up displaying correct hand washing techniques and to remind the students of their role in this. Staff are reminding students who have been to the toilet that they need to ensure they wash their hands (as we would expect them to anyway!). All visitors to the school are being asked to use hand sanitiser upon entry.

We have stepped up the cleaning of key areas in school and all entrance points, handrails etc are being cleaned after break and lunchtime. Students are being encouraged to adopt good hygiene regarding coughing and sneezing and whilst not perfect, we are seeing students take this seriously.

Unfortunately our external trips out of the country will not be going ahead on the basis of Government advice issued on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Of course, exam season is nearly upon us and I am delighted that we have agreed a partnership arrangement with our friends at Dene Magna should there need to be any change of venue in the future. Essentially, this allows our students and their students to sit exams if either school is forced to close and we are given the go ahead to allow students in to complete their exams. We will update you nearer the time on this, but please rest assured that we have plans in place.

Going forward, I ask you to play your part in this by letting me know directly if you or any of your family are travelling to any of the high risk areas, or if any of your family have been advised by 111 or their GP to self-isolate. If this is the case then please call the school or send an email on the email address above so that we can discuss the situation and take any actions that may be required.

School life will be carrying on and whilst we need to take precautions against COVID-19, we do also have to manage the students in reassuring them of how this illness is manifesting itself and that they must not panic. As adults, please remind them that we do regularly go through periods where a new strain of a virus will develop and that mortality rates from this are still tiny when compared with other illnesses or diseases. This is not designed to make us complacent or to trivialise COVID-19;

rather it is designed to help us maintain a sense of perspective when all this information and miss information is flying around.

A copy of our contingency plan is attached

Yours sincerely,



John Whitehead  
Headteacher