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BISHOPSHALT SCHOOL

"Above all else a place for learning"

27th February 2020

Ref:MCG/ber/Coronavirus

Dear Parents/Carers

We understand that given the media coverage of the Coronavirus, you may be concerned about the potential impact on school life if it were to spread to the local area. The risk of this happening is currently very low and there is no reason why your children should not attend school as normal.

The Government, NHS and Public Health England are fully prepared. We would also like to reassure you that we have guidance to follow in case we have any reported cases. However, in the meantime, it is always advisable to encourage your children to follow the usual precautionary measures that help slow the spread of almost any germs.

We ask for your support in helping us achieve this. Please read through the following advice on how to minimise the spread of any germs/infections within school and have a discussion with your children about the importance of practising good hand/respiratory hygiene.

Preventing the Spread of Germs:

- **Catch it** Sneeze/Cough into disposable tissues
- **Bin it** Dispose of them immediately and appropriately
- **Kill it** Wash hands with soap and water regularly or use hand sanitizer gel if soap and water are unavailable

- Cleaning hands is particularly important before leaving home, after using the toilet, before cooking and eating, after breaks and sports activities and on arrival at any educational setting
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Do not share items that have had contact with your mouth such as drinking bottles/flasks
- If unwell, avoid sharing items such as pens and pencils

Symptoms of Coronavirus:

The symptoms of coronavirus are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath. However, these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu/

Returning Travellers:

UK Chief Medical Officers are advising anyone who has travelled to the UK from mainland China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Laos, Malaysia, Macau or Vietnam, in the last 14 days and is experiencing cough, fever or shortness of breath, to stay indoors and call NHS111, even if symptoms are mild.

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Headteacher: Mr L McGillicuddy

If you have returned from the following areas since 19 February 2020, you should call **NHS 111** and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms.

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas of Northern Italy, these are currently
 - Lombardy Region
 - Veneto Region
 - Specific Towns currently listed:
 - Bertonico
 - Terranova dei Passerini
 - Castiglione d'Adda
 - Casalpusterlengo
 - Castelgerundo
 - Somaglia
 - Codogno
 - Fombio
 - Maleo
 - Vo' Eugane
 - San Fiorano
 - South Korea – Special care zones as designated by the Government of the republic of South Korea
 - China – Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

If you are concerned:

- **Do not go to a GP surgery, Pharmacy, Walk in Centre, or hospital.**
- **Call 111 – tell them about any recent travel or symptoms you have**
- **Stay indoors**
- **Avoid close contact with other people**

For further information:

- Latest information and update on Coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>
- Public Health England blog: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novacoronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

If you have any questions regarding the precautionary measures we are implementing, please don't hesitate to contact us on office@bishopshalt.hillingon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely



L McGillicuddy (Mr)
Headteacher