



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

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3rd March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are aware that the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is increasing and that there has been one confirmed case in a neighbouring town.

We are writing to assure you that The Whitstable School is following the Department for Education's advice which is issued by Public Health England. The advice being released to the public and schools is being updated on a regular basis, the school will send out further information when necessary. Schools will not shut unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

Good personal hygiene is the most important way to tackle the spread of the virus, our cleaners have been instructed to wipe down surfaces more regularly and to check soap dispensers are full and in working order. We have placed handwashing guidelines in every washroom and classroom area to encourage pupils and staff to wash their hands thoroughly.

At this time of year there are many respiratory illnesses circulating, you can protect yourselves and others by:

- Catching your cough or sneeze in the crook of your elbow or using a tissue. Then bin the tissue and wash your hands, or use an alcohol-based sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based gel until you can wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

You can help by reiterating this advice at home, by encouraging pupils to carry tissues and to cover their mouth if they cough or sneeze. Pupils will be allowed to leave classrooms to wash their hands and dispose of tissues. Face masks will not be permitted in school, there is no evidence that these will stop the spread and should be used by health professionals only.

Further information regarding COVID-19 can be found on the government web page:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening Hours: 8am to 6pm

As per the guidelines if you have any concerns about symptoms please contact 111 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs AM Gibson
Headteacher



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