

28 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Coronavirus concerns

You're likely aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At Archibald First, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so we're sharing guidance from Public Health England on steps you should be taking.

*There is currently **no cause** for concern at the school, but we'll keep you informed about any developments and ensure we're keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.*

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- 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

We will be encouraging the children and staff to do this throughout the day. Our cleaning team will also continue to sanitise the school each day.

Your Understanding and Support

Whilst there is no immediate concern at school, I have a duty of care for every child, member of staff and family of Archibald, and would ask that you all consider the following carefully - especially as we have vulnerable children and staff at school. I know, that like me, you will want to ensure the health and well-being of everyone at Archibald.

I would like to strongly reiterate the need to not put others at risk.

Whilst reading the following, please consider carefully the recent travel and health of

- Yourself
- Your children
- Your family members who you have been in contact with
- Your wider network

If you or your children have returned from a category 1 country or area in past 14 days

This includes:

- Wuhan city and Hubei province, China
- Iran*
- Daegu or Cheongdo, South Korea
- Any Italian town under containment measures

Contact NHS 111 for advice, and self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area.

If you become unwell, call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention).

If you or your children have returned from a category 2 country or area in last 14 days. This includes:

- Cambodia
- China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province)
- Hong Kong
- Italy: north
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo)
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

If you or your children are well:

- You don't need to avoid contact with other people
- Your other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

If you become unwell:

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses
- Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

If you are at all unsure, please consider the balance of taking precautionary steps to decrease the risk to others.

Symptoms to look out for:

If you've returned from any of the category 1 or 2 areas or countries, look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher) TOP TIP: **Check your family's temperatures before leaving for school!**
- Also, for people coming back from Cat 2 countries, they should isolate EVEN IF SYMPTOMS ARE MILD

If you develop any of these symptoms, then please self-isolate as to not put yourself and others at risk and make contact with NHS 111. While you wait for further advice:

- Avoid contact with others
- Stay at home – don't go to work or school
- Don't travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing, throwing tissues in the bin
- 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)

I'd like to thank you for your support, consideration for others and understanding. If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have travelled over the half-term holiday to any of the places currently in the category 1 or category 2 lists, we would hope you would advise us of this.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Turner
Head Teacher