

3rd March 2020

Dear Parent\Carer

COVID-19 UPDATE

There are naturally lots of concerns by students and their families about the spread of the coronavirus and whilst we can be reassured that at present there are not a great number of cases in the UK, we do know that the situation is evolving. We are receiving daily updates from the government, and are in constant contact with the Director of Public Health for Haringey and Public Health England.

Government advice focuses on personal hygiene - we should all wash regularly with hot water and soap for at least 20 seconds, making sure to dry hands well. The government suggests humming the tune of 'Happy Birthday' twice while you wash - that's about the correct length of time. They also remind us of the importance of covering your cough or sneeze. At this time of year there are always lots of other illnesses floating about and the "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" guidance is one that we routinely promote within school. We are doing that again now.

We have purchased extra tissues and also hand sanitiser gel to meet the extra demand. Our cleaning contractors, Lakethorne, are also aware of the situation and are being particularly focused on ensuring things like door handles are cleaned carefully. Within the curriculum Year 7 students are receiving an extra science lesson, with material from Public Health England, to help them understand viruses, germs and the importance of personal hygiene. We are also providing guidance to students within their PHSEE lessons, at registration and through posters around the school.

The Department for Education is currently not suggesting schools should close or that we should conduct ourselves any differently to as we normally behave during a time of year when cold and flus are widespread. If this guidance should change we will ensure that our families are notified immediately.

If you want more information the government has opened a helpline 0800 046 8687 (DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk) to offer guidance to anyone, including parents, with education related questions on the virus. You are also welcome to contact me at the school should you have any questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully



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Highgate Wood School Student Council supports individual action to address the issues of Climate Change and promotes the United Nations top 10 recommendations.



5-minute showers



Drive less



Lights off



Local produce



Recycle



Meat-free meals



Zero-waste fashion



Unplug



Refill and reuse



Bring your own bag