

Principal: Emma Robins



16 March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to share with you some specific information about the Coronavirus outbreak and our current situation. It is, of course, very difficult to predict how things will change in the coming days but we are thinking ahead as much as possible. In this respect, we are following daily guidance issued by Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

**Current guidance from the DfE is as follows:**

*To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of the infection.*

*The symptoms are:*

- *A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)*
- *A new, continuous cough*

*You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/> If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency call 999.*

*Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.*

*The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.*

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.....23) 380985  
Email: [admin@grahamschool.org](mailto:admin@grahamschool.org)

***The Government has issued new travel guidance for the education sector. This advises against all overseas education trips for children under 18 during March or April. This does not apply to domestic trips, or overseas trips which are already underway.***

**Handwashing Advice:**

***The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that, in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using the toilet and travelling on public transport.***

The school is taking all necessary precautions as stated above to minimise the risks associated with Coronavirus. Our toilets are checked several times a day to ensure that there is adequate soap and sanitizer available for students to use and we continue to encourage them to use it appropriately when needed. The daily cleaning routine in the school ensures that high contact areas, such as door handles, are disinfected regularly. We will keep you informed should the DFE guidance change.

Attendance at school remains important and I hope that you will consider this information carefully to decide whether self-isolation is necessary. It is important, however, that you do not place the health of your child at risk. Should you feel that they need to stay off school please use the attendance line as normal – call the school number and follow the instructions.

We will let you know of any further information as and when it becomes available.

Yours faithfully,



**Emma Robins**

Principal | Graham School