

4th March 2020

Dear Parents,

As part of our ongoing awareness and provision for any potential pandemic outbreak due to Coronavirus we wanted to reassure you that the School is keeping current with daily guidance from the DfE and Public Health England and will share these with you given any changes in advice. This advice remains that we should maintain hand washing (not using sanitisers but regular sessions of washing with soap and water for approximately 20 seconds (two rounds of singing of happy birthday apparently)) and be vigilant to signs of the virus with those we mix with (please see [PHE Advice on the coronavirus for places in education](#)). A provision plan is in place at Heathcote to ensure that should there be an outbreak of the virus we have staff procedures in place to ensure provision of education whilst potentially having to close the site.

Additionally, we will continue through lessons and assemblies to communicate to pupils the importance of:

- hand washing to be used in event of arrival at the school;
- 'catching' a cough or sneeze in a tissue, binning this and washing our hands;
- washing hands after breaks and sport activities, before cooking and eating, after using the toilet and before leaving for home;
- refraining from touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- ensuring that they do not share items that come into contact with mouths such as cups & bottles.

As part of this we shall not be shaking hands on the gates upon arrival and dismissal from school, as although this is not deemed a personal risk for one child the adult is sharing handshakes with numerous children and the children do not clean their hands until much later at the end of the day. A smile, greeting and maybe a wave will have to suffice until the virus is more contained.

Mrs S.Scott