

9th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will have heard in the news, Coronavirus (COVID-19) is beginning to spread in the UK with recent cases being confirmed in Rugby. I therefore wanted to write to you to give you my assurance that St Matthew's Bloxam Primary School is taking all the precautions necessary in order to protect children and staff.

We are in regular contact with Public Health England and we are acting in accordance with nationally recommended advice. Whilst it is clearly a concerning situation, the risk remains low to individuals in the UK and the advice from the Government is that wherever possible we should be carrying on as normal. At the same time, we are planning to make sure we are well prepared for all eventualities.

Following simple steps remains the best way of helping to protect yourself and others from all flu-like viruses. They include:

- Regularly washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. See Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick

Due to health and safety regulations under COSHH, we cannot allow unauthorised liquids into school including hand sanitiser. Please support us in this by not sending your children into school with any hand gel.

We would recommend you look at the following sources of information to keep yourself informed of all the latest information and advice:

- The Department for Education has established a 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 (Monday to Friday)
- Detailed information and advice for the public and returning travellers can be found on the NHS.uk website (and will be regularly updated): [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- Further information for the public about the situation can be found here (and will be regularly updated): [gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public).

If you are worried about symptoms or need specific advice please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

I hope that this clarifies the current situation. An update will be sent to you again should any circumstances change.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Timson

Headteacher