26 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you concerning some health related issues at school.

The advice relating to Coronavirus is being continually updated by the Government, and we check daily for revised information. There is now new guidance for travellers returning from different parts of the World.

Anyone returning from the following areas (Category 1 countries) since February 19 MUST stay indoors and call NHS111 even if they have no symptoms:

- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy
- Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
- Hubei province (returned in the past 14 days)

Travellers returning from the following areas (Category 2 countries) do not need to self-quarantine unless they develop any symptoms, in which case they should stay at home and call NHS111:

- Northern Italy (defined by a line above, and not including, Pisa, Florence and Rimini),
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Laos
- Myanmar

Where we are aware that a child has returned from holiday in any of the affected countries, we will check with parents that they are following the appropriate advice.

Further information is available on the Gov.UK website at:

The best way to reduce the risk of passing on Coronavirus (or any other infection) is through good hand hygiene. Washing your hands properly removes dirt, viruses and bacteria to stop them spreading to other people and objects. We will continue to underline the importance of hand washing with the children, and have been telling them that they should wash their hands for the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice (around 20 seconds). We will continue to monitor and maintain soap levels in all the toilets and classrooms.

**Mumps and Scarlet Fever**

We have been notified of confirmed cases of mumps and scarlet fever at Crofton Infant School.

Whilst neither condition is usually serious, as a general precaution it is recommended that pregnant women and anyone with a compromised immune system should avoid close contact with anyone known to have an active infection.

Mumps is an infectious viral illness and the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine offers protection against these diseases. Children routinely receive their first dose at one year of age and their second dose from three years four months old but there is no upper age limit to receive the vaccine. If your child has not yet received two doses of the MMR vaccine or you are unsure, please contact your GP or practice nurse as soon as possible.

Further information about mumps and MMR vaccination can be found at [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mumps/). If you think that your child may have mumps, please contact your GP. Children with suspected mumps should be kept away from school until five days after the onset of swelling.

The first signs of scarlet fever can be flu-like symptoms including a high temperature, sore throat and swollen neck glands. A rash appears a few days later. Scarlet fever is treated with antibiotics, and children should stay off school for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. More information can be found at [https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/)

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Mrs Susie Sargent

Headteacher

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The Admin Team

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