



12 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you the latest information on coronavirus, COVID-19.

As you will no doubt be aware, on Monday the Prime Minister confirmed that the government's response to COVID-19 remains in the Contain phase – the first phase in the government's coronavirus action plan. (Details of the plan are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan> )

We are guided by government policy. The advice from PHE continues to be for education settings to remain open, unless advised otherwise. In addition the DfE stresses that personal hygiene is the most important way that COVID-19 can be tackled, especially washing hands more; and the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes. The guidance is that hands should be washed for 20 seconds with soap and hot water and that this should take place before eating, after coughing and sneezing, and after using toilets and travelling on public transport. The need for hygiene is a message that we continue to give to the children on a regular basis. The DfE have set up a helpline to provide additional guidance to parents, pupils and staff. The details are as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk) Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

You may also be aware that there is increasing discussion about the government requiring schools to close down either as part of their overall coronavirus action plan, or in response to specific situations. We would, of course, comply with these instructions. I wanted to reassure you, however, that we are making plans to enable the students to continue with their education if this situation arose, to ensure that disruption to learning would be kept to a minimum. This might involve use of Show My Homework, Google Classroom, Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, work packs, online learning and, suggested reading lists. Teachers are currently preparing relevant material for that eventuality.

In the event of school closure, parents and carers would be officially notified through ParentMail, social media, website, text and local radio.

You might also be aware that the government is revising travel guidelines every day. Their advice currently refers to Category 1 and Category 2 countries. The full guidance as at 10 March is below:

**Principal: Mr Mark Avoth**

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Category 1: Travellers should self-isolate, even if asymptomatic, and use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next. Go home or to your destination and then self isolate.

The guidance for Italy applies to travellers who returned from the country on or after 9 March 2020.

Category 2: Travellers do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

### **Category 1 countries/areas**

Wuhan city and Hubei Province (China)

Iran

Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea)

Italy\*\*

### **Category 2 countries/areas**

China\*

Cambodia

Hong Kong

Japan

Laos

Macau

Malaysia

Myanmar

Republic of Korea\*

Singapore

Taiwan

Thailand

Vietnam

\*Except areas of the country specifically referred to in Category 1. \*\*(i) Travellers who returned from areas of Northern Italy that were under containment measures between 19 February and 8 March 2020 should self-isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms they should contact NHS 111.

(ii) Travellers who returned from the rest of Italy before 9 March 2020 do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

I am conscious of the fact that a number of Bourne Academy families will choose to travel abroad over the Easter holidays. I would ask you to be mindful of the then prevailing government guidelines regarding travel restrictions and, additionally, instructions regarding isolation, where appropriate, on return.

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The basic message for everyone at this stage, irrespective of whether you have travelled abroad or not, is to ensure you stay off school/work if you are feeling ill, and to contact NHS 111 hotline immediately if you have concerns about the coronavirus. The NHS has provided details on symptoms – please see below:

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness.

The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

As a Academy, we will continue to monitor the coronavirus situation very carefully and will heed any advice and directives the government communicates.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth

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