

6 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update – 6/3/2020

We are pleased to report that St Dunstan's continues to have 0 confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst pupils, staff or parents.

Parents should be aware that Public Health England have now updated their guidance and anyone who has returned from Italy (anywhere in the country including the islands) since 19 February 2020 should now self-isolate if symptomatic (cough, fever **or** shortness of breath) as the whole of Italy has now been designated a Category 2 area. The requirement to self-isolate regardless of symptoms still applies to all Category 1 areas. Please contact the College if you or your family are now affected by this advice.

This morning, I addressed all Senior School students to inform them of the current Public Health England/ Department of Education advice to schools. The talk focused particularly on the importance of following appropriate hygiene procedures, discussing the virus sensibly amongst themselves and speaking to the Wellness Centre or pastoral teams should they have any particular anxieties. We also discussed the College's response should we be mandated to close by Public Health England. The message was that we would continue to provide remote learning for students, in line with their normal timetable, using Firefly and that as a result, all students should ensure they have full access to Firefly at home and were able to log on, check tasks and download/upload files. In the Junior School form teachers will discuss this at an appropriate level of detail with pupils in their class next week. Addressing it in a smaller group will enable teachers to tailor their discussion to any concerns raised by that particular group of pupils and this will be done in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age group concerned.

The College Leadership Team continues to make plans for this possible outcome in both Junior and Senior Schools so that we can continue to offer a level of instruction and support that is as close to normal as possible in the event of a closure. These plans will be shared with the community in due course.

Yours sincerely



Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster

Dear Parents and Carers

Update – 3/3/2020

We are pleased to report that St Dunstan's continues to have 0 confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst pupils, staff or parents. If we were to have a confirmed case, we would inform Public Health England who would work with us to manage next steps including contact tracing. One further Senior School student has been sent home to self-isolate as a precautionary measure and one has received a negative test and has no symptoms so is now returning to school.

In response to the current moderate risk level, we have increased cleaning protocols throughout the College to assist with prevention, focusing on high-risk areas such as door handles, bannisters and light switches. All Junior School classes should have now received their handwashing workshop from the College Nurse and we will now be extending those workshops to Senior School students. Posters from Public Health England to remind about handwashing have also been displayed.

We are asking any one-off visitors to not enter the building if they have visited an at risk area in the last 14 days (either category) and are symptomatic or have had close contact with a confirmed case.

Please let us know if you or your children have had close contact with a confirmed case or have visited a Category 1 area (symptomatic or not) or a Category 2 area (symptomatic). In all of these instances, self-isolation is required.

The key symptoms Public Health England are looking out for are 1) shortness of breath 2) a cough 3) a raised temperature. Please note only one of these symptoms may be present. If any one of these symptoms are present and you or your child have been to an at risk area, please do not come on to the school site but instead communicate with us by email or telephone. All of these same messages are also being shared with St Dunstan's staff.

Finally, we have started contingency planning, were we in the worst case scenario and were asked by Public Health England to close the school. We are fortunate enough to already have a virtual learning environment in place (Firefly) and we are looking at the best ways of exploiting this, including a roll out to Junior School children, were we to need to educate children remotely for a short period of time. These plans will be shared with the community in due course.

Once again our thanks for your support and continued cooperation as we work to keep the community safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster

Update – 2/3/2020

Following on from my last letter, I would like to advise you that on Friday, one Junior School parent notified us that they had had previous contact with a person who was asymptomatic at the time of the encounter, but has subsequently tested positive for coronavirus. The parent is currently self-isolating at home and is not symptomatic. They will keep us updated with any further developments. One further Senior School pupil was sent home after visiting Northern Italy (Category 2 town) and developing a slight sore throat. The family contacted NHS 111 for further advice who assessed that the child was not at risk and was able to return to school. The first Senior School pupil to be sent home has not yet returned to school. Finally, this morning, one further Junior School parent informed us they were self-isolating due to having a temperature and having recently visited Thailand. They have taken the decision to also keep their children home from school whilst awaiting testing.

There have been no further causes for concern expressed to us by staff, children or parents but please do continue to keep us informed of any new concerns that arise.

Yours sincerely



Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster

Update – 27/2/2020

Following on from my last letter, I would like to advise you that yesterday one Senior School pupil was sent home as a precaution after returning from Northern Italy and developing mild symptoms of a seasonal cold; please note they had not visited any of the Category 1 towns in Italy. The child presented to us immediately upon feeling unwell and was sent home immediately. The pupil and family will be supported by the NHS and we will be in regular contact to check on their wellbeing.

Our action is in line with the Public Health England guidance referenced below which states that recent visitors to Category 2 areas should self-isolate only if symptoms appear. As many children have coughs and colds at this time of year, this may affect a few children but as I'm sure you understand we are working to keep our whole community safe.

There is no reason for the school to close, in line with DfE guidance on this matter. Should there ever be a confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst the staff, pupil or parent body, we will notify Public Health England and follow their situation-specific advice. We thank you all for your support and communication with the school at this time including notifying us of travel undertaken or travel plans.

Please do remind your children about hand washing protocols and bringing in tissues. The College Nurse has been showing Junior School pupils correct hand washing procedures this term and will then move on to the Senior School but all reminders help!

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N P Hewlett', written in a cursive style.

Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster

26 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus update

I am writing to provide a further update with regard to the steps that the school is taking to safeguard your child and the wider school community in relation to the outbreak of the coronavirus, which has affected not only mainland China but also Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Macau, Iran and Northern Italy. As of 25 February, a total of 6,795 UK tests have been concluded, of which 6,782 were confirmed negative and 13 positive. These figures now include the 4 cases from the Diamond Princess cruise ship. For this reason, the UK risk level remains at moderate, although **the risk to individuals in the UK remains low.**

We are carefully monitoring the situation, which is complex and constantly evolving, and following guidance from Public Health England (PHE) and other authorities. Current advice for returning travellers is as follows:

If you have returned from these Category 1 areas since February 19, you should call NHS111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people **even if you do not have symptoms:**

- Wuhan city and Hubei Province (China, [see map](#))
- Iran
- Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designated by the Government of Italy ([see map](#))
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea, [see map](#))

If you have returned from these Category 2 areas since February 19 and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS111. You do not need to follow this advice if you have no symptoms:

- Cambodia
- China *
- Hong Kong
- Italy: north *
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Republic of Korea *
- Singapore

- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

* Except areas of the country specified under Category 1.

Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk> and Public Health England are updating their advice on a daily basis at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

It is very helpful for us as a community if you could inform us if you, or anyone in your family, are self-isolating for reasons outlined as above.

We have ascertained that none of our pupils who has family in China is travelling there in the Easter holiday, in line with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) guidance, which advises against all such non-essential travel. Equally, no pupil to our knowledge is expecting a visit from friends or family in China. The same checks are being made with regard to members of staff.

I should be grateful if you would inform me if you, or any other close family member, are planning to visit China or any of the affected countries mentioned above between now and 21 April 2020, **or if you are expecting a visit from a family member or friend from any of these areas.**

Meanwhile, please be assured that we are taking steps to educate all members of the school community on how to reduce the risk of spreading **any** respiratory virus (including colds and flu). Please find below some basic messages which can be reinforced at home too:

- As we all know, ‘coughs and sneezes spread diseases’. Please encourage your child to bring clean paper tissues to school in case they need to use them.
- Please encourage your child to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, dispose of the tissue promptly in a bin, and wash their hands. (Cloth handkerchiefs or used tissues can contaminate pockets or bags, which then re-contaminate hands.)
- Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly, especially after coughing, sneezing and using tissues, washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, then an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol could be used. This is particularly important after taking public transport.

If your child is unwell or has symptoms of a bad cough, cold or flu, has a fever or has been sick, please keep them at home. It goes without saying that if you are ever worried about your child’s symptoms, you should seek medical advice.

It is also important that we have your child's most up-to-date medical information, as well as contact information for you as parents (e-mail addresses as well as telephone numbers). If there has been any change in either of these areas, please update the details on the iSAMS Parent portal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleagues should you have any further question.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N P Hewlett', written in a cursive style.

Mr N P Hewlett
Headmaster