

26th February 2020

Dear Parent

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update

We thought it would be helpful to draw your attention to the government advice and guidance regarding the Coronavirus or COVID-19. We would also like to reassure you that the school continues to follow this guidance and that we are well supported by Cumbria County Council and our health and safety providers with regard to the virus. This is a very fluid situation so we are taking this opportunity to ensure that parents are able to access the same information we are given as a school.

We hope you find the links below useful and we would encourage you to revisit the www.gov.uk website to keep up to date with the latest guidance. We will continue to do the same as a school. Please can I encourage you to read this information carefully as it is easily misinterpreted. There are a number of statement paragraphs, each of which is followed by a colon which is then followed by a list of countries and places to which the paragraph refers. Reading this incorrectly could lead you to apply the wrong guidance to the wrong countries.

Latest information and guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Information relating to travel from specified countries

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

Japan

You may well be aware that we recently enjoyed a highly successful trip to Japan and we took advice throughout the organisation of the trip as the virus began to spread. It is important to state that the government advice continues to be very clear on what to do if you return from certain countries. Returning from Japan is not a cause for concern **unless you present with certain symptoms**. Japan is classed as a **category 2** country and the [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website states the following: **Category 2**: Travellers do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

The government says that **only people returning from Japan who present with identified symptoms** should self isolate for 14 days and call 111. Our Japan trip staff and students do not present with the identified symptoms and they therefore do not need to self isolate. There is therefore no cause for concern by any members of the school community.

In closing, we would like to reassure you that we will be in touch with parents directly should the virus affect our immediate school community.

Kind regards



Andy Cunningham
Head Teacher