



14th February 2020

Dear Parents

Coronavirus

With half-term upon us and new cases emerging in the UK we thought it would be helpful to pass on advice that we have today received from the Department of Education.

Since 10th February, 1114 individuals in the UK have been tested for coronavirus and 1,106 confirmed negative and 8 positive. Health professionals are contacting anyone who has been in close contact with those who have coronavirus. **The risk to individuals in the UK remains low.**

Anyone who has visited Hubei province in the past 14 days should self-isolate. People returning from other parts of China, including Macao and Hong Kong, as well as Thailand, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, and who get a cough, a high temperature or become short of breath (even if symptoms are mild) should self-isolate and seek medical advice. It is possible that, by the end of half-term, the advice will be to self-isolate if you've been to these places, whether you have symptoms or not. It is also likely that this list of countries will grow longer.

Under these circumstances, we are asking pupils and staff who visit these countries during half-term to stay away from school for the 14 days self-isolation. If your child has close contact with family members or others who have returned from these hotspots, please email or speak to Mrs Handy or Miss Slim on sarah.handy@stdavidsprep.com or office@stdavidsprep.com to discuss, on a case-by-case basis, whether it is appropriate for them to return to school immediately.

Most countries in Europe and North America have a small number of individuals who have tested positive for coronavirus. These outbreaks are localised, directly linked to people who recently travelled to Asia, and are being controlled by the local health authorities.

We would encourage everyone travelling over half-term to practise the following common-sense precautions, to reduce the chance of catching coughs, colds and respiratory viruses like coronavirus:

- Have a good supply of disposable tissues and a bottle of hand sanitiser gel (widely available in chemists and supermarkets) with you whilst travelling
- Use tissues to catch your cough or sneeze, then bin the tissue, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. If you don't have a tissue with you, 'catch' the cough or sneeze in the crook of your elbow

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use sanitiser
- Wash hands or use sanitiser after using public transport, or being in areas where there are lots of people, eg airports or motorway service stations
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

All our children are being instructed to wash their hands before break and at lunchtime.

We hope you all have a restful half-term and look forward to seeing the children back at school on Tuesday 25th February.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Foulger
Head Teacher