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Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to you with specific advice about the Coronavirus outbreak and would appreciate your careful attention to the contents of this letter and your ongoing support.

Information about the virus (taken from Government Guidance)

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China in January 2020. The incubation period of COVID-19 is between 2 to 14 days. This means that if a person remains well 14 days after contact with someone with confirmed coronavirus, they have not been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after exposure to someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- Cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. **There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – very few cases have been reported in children.**

The school ski trip

The Government said yesterday that students returning from 11 quarantined towns in Italy after 19th February must self-isolate for 14 days. Please note that our ski trip returned to England on **8th February** AND they were located many miles away from those towns (in Bormio – shown as ● on the map below).



However, the advice is now that if students (or teachers) returning from Northern Italy (above the dotted line on the map) show symptoms (detailed above) they should self-isolate.

Half-Term holidays

Clearly, some parents and students may have been abroad this half-term, so this advice (above) applies to them too. The quarantined towns in Italy are Bertinico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione d'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova dei Passerini - all in Lodi province in Lombardy - and Vo' Euganeo in Padova province, Veneto.

The updated advice means people returning from these Italian towns, or Iran, parts of South Korea and Hubei province in China - where the outbreak began - are being asked to call NHS 111, stay indoors and avoid contact with others, **even if they do not have symptoms**.

Government Guidance

Please be assured that we are following Government Guidance which is being updated regularly. This is attached here, should you be interested

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Finally

Please don't be concerned. Most coughs and colds are simply that; coughs and colds. If you are worried then you should call 111, but **please do not keep your child off school** if they have not developed the symptoms unless you are one of those, outlined above, who should be self-isolating. If you have any further questions, please contact us, but medical advice should be sought from the NHS.

Yours faithfully,



Andy Byers
Headteacher