

COVID-19 / CORONAVIRUS POLICY

For the latest updates about COVID-19 please visit - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Introduction

At Fosse Bank we are continuing to monitor the situation and follow guidance sent to schools by the DfE in order to minimise any impact for the children and families of our school. The purpose of this policy is to provide information regarding COVID-19 / Coronavirus and advice on how to prevent the spread of this infection. The school will communicate regularly with parents by ParentMail as the Government position changes.

Without wanting to spread any anxiety or panic, we do think it is important to take on board the recommendations suggested and to make sure that children are aware of what is good practice in terms of healthy hygiene, particularly where children have coughs and sneezes in schools.

What is Coronavirus and should you be concerned?

A coronavirus is a type of virus. As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Generally, coronavirus 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.

What are the signs and symptoms of this new virus?

The symptoms of this new coronavirus (COVID-19) include cough, fever, shortness of breath, or flu-like symptoms. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild.

If you have returned from any of the specified countries and areas [listed on this page](#), you should follow the advice that is relevant to you.

What are the risks of catching COVID-19

The Health Department's view is that, even with confirmed corona virus, most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine to alleviate pain/discomfort. The chances of being in contact with the virus remain low in the UK and this extends to educational settings. Other than ensuring good hygiene practices are in place, there are no current wider actions required of schools.

Effective hygiene practices and facilities are already in place at Fosse Bank School and pupils are regularly reminded by teachers to wash their hands thoroughly regularly, at the particular times specified below as a minimum. Also to use tissues and cover their mouths if they have a cough.

What is the school doing?

- We are encouraging children to learn the importance of **Catch It, Kill It, Bin It.**
- We are making sure that there are plenty of disposable paper tissues available on desks in the classrooms and soap/ hand wash available at the sinks.
- We are asking children to wash their hands when arriving at school in the morning, at break time, before lunch, when they come back from the toilet, after PE lessons and after Forest School and before they go home.
- We are also aware that children share resources in school so we are looking to find ways to improve hygiene and ensure surfaces and resources are cleaned even more often.
- We are asking parents to self-isolate their children for 14 days if they have travelled to a Category 1 or Category 2 area, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms.

- Any staff member who travels to a Category 1 or 2 area is being asked to self-isolate for 14 days, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms.
- School trips will be individually considered in the context of an overall risk assessment.

What happens if schools are asked to close

- We have set up a virtual classroom on SharePoint for each year group in the event that pupils have to self-isolate, or if the school were to be advised to close, to ensure ongoing education can take place.
- Each child has an individual email address that will get them into this area.
- Specific resources from your class teacher, some of which are interactive will also be included.
- To access the SharePoint Virtual Classroom visit <http://fossebankschool.sharepoint.com>.
- Your child's login details are secured to the inside of their reading record.
- Visit the **Class Sites** section or navigate to the relevant class at the **top of the page**.
- All work can be found in the Document section. Here you will find, suggested activities for the younger children and work to be done for the older pupils.
- Work completed at home can be emailed to your child's teacher using Outlook on Office 365 (pupils have also been given instructions on how to do this).

What can parents do?

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water are not available. For the most effective way to wash your hands watch this video - <https://twitter.com/NHSuk/status/1235112744917049346>
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home.
- **If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.**
- Advise the school of any planned travel out of the UK for both pupils and/or family members.

What does the school need to know?

The government is monitoring Coronavirus and taking action at home and abroad. The risk to individuals remains moderate. With Half Term and Easter Holidays it is likely that parents and pupils may be going skiing in Northern Italy.

1. If you have returned from these specific areas since 19th February, you call NHS111 and stay indoors and avoid contact with other people even if you do not have symptoms:
 - Iran
 - Specific lockdown areas in Northern Italy as designed by the Government of Italy
 - Special care zones in South Korea as designated by the Government of the Republic of South Korea
 - Hubei province

2. If you have returned from these areas since 19 February and develop symptoms, however mild, you should stay indoors at home and avoid contact with other people immediately and call NHS111.
 - Northern Italy
 - Cambodia
 - Laos
 - Myanmar
 - If you have any concerns please let us know and please update us if you are aware of any children or other family members who have travelled recently from areas affected by Coronavirus and are displaying symptoms.

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What will the school do if we have a pupil or member of staff who is being tested for suspected coronavirus?

If a pupil or member of staff is being tested for suspected coronavirus, based on PHE advice, there is no requirement for the school to close, send other children home, or put other specific measures in place other than cleaning specific areas and disposing of waste. However, the necessary cleaning is likely to require a thorough clean of most areas of the school, and it therefore seems quite possible the school will require a temporary closure while this is carried out. The use of the pupils SharePoint area will provide access for continued educational provision during any period of closure.

Parents will be communicated to should a pupil or member of staff be tested for the coronavirus, enabling parents to make informed decisions based on the risk as they perceive it. Some parents make choose to keep their children at home until the results are known.

Will the school close if we have a confirmed case?

Many schools will want to close where there is a confirmed case. PHE advice states “In most cases, closure of the childcare or education setting will be unnecessary but this will be a local decision based on various factors such as establishment size and pupil mixing.” PHE Health Protection team will be in touch with the school, carry out necessary assessments and give advice. They will also identify who will amount to a “contact” (which will inevitably include pupils and staff within the school), and advise those people on steps they should take, which will include self-isolation.

Parents will be communicated to as soon as we are made aware of a confirmed case and as to whether the school will remain open.

As a school, we are taking this outbreak seriously and encouraging all our staff, children and visitors to use the facilities within our areas e.g. hand washes, hand gels and tissues as appropriate.

Useful Links

Government Coronavirus Action Plan - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

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

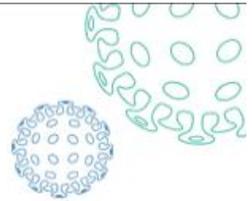
Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Helpline Phone: 0800 046 8687 (Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday))
Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk



Public Health
England

Advice on the coronavirus for places of education



How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19).

Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days.

See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.

