



Alameda Middle School

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12th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

You will recall our earlier communication sent via "group call" on 2nd March regarding Coronavirus. You may also have used the information on our website <http://www.alamedamiddleschool.org.uk/page/?title=Coronavirus&pid=76>. We meet regularly as a leadership team to ensure we are following the guidance and to consider all actions relating to this that may be relevant to us at Alameda. It is our aim to make sure we act to support the health and safety of all of our community while being careful not to spread panic.

We have been in regular contact with our Health and Safety advisor and have been following the updates and guidance from Public Health England. There is now a Department for Education (DfE) Coronavirus helpline which we have found very useful.

While Coronavirus is referred to widely in the media, we wanted to make sure you were aware of changes to advice to travellers returning from abroad, specifically those returning from Italy. Anyone returning from Italy on or after March 9th is now told they should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people. Previous advice still applies to those who returned from Italy before this time which was for those returning from category one areas to self-isolate but those returning from category two areas to continue as normal unless symptoms are exhibited when they should call 111 and self-isolate.

This is the advice we have been following with families who tell us they have travelled to specified countries. We have checked our actions with the DfE corona virus helpline who confirmed our actions are correct. They also advised us to be clear that the changes made from March 9th are a precautionary measure and asked us to remind all parents, carers, staff and pupils that the UK is still a low risk environment. They emphasized the importance of staying calm and not panicking. Our role as a school is to also ensure that we support this. I appreciate, however, that there will still be concerns which I fully understand. I would like to reassure you that we continue to follow updates and guidance. Please can I also ask, once again, that you tell us if you have travel to one of these areas.

We are also sharing the advice to wash hands regularly and our site team have been increasingly vigilant around checking hand washing facilities. This is something I have checked personally. We will be giving pupils the chance to share and discuss any concerns about Coronavirus during form times, as well as using this time to reinforce the key messages about handwashing. We will be seeking to reassure pupils who will, no

doubt be very aware of the media attention and some of the panic buying of toilet roll that has occurred.

Along with taking advice from our health and safety advisor, we continue to monitor the guidance and ensure it is followed.

Links to the most recent information can be found on our website [LINK](#)

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D Fickling', with a small flourish at the end.

Diana Fickling
Business Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M Warner', with a large, stylized 'M'.

Maxine Warner
Headteacher