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Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This morning I learnt that a parent of one of our children has been asked to place themselves in self-isolation as a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. I am also aware that we have two further families who have chosen to self-isolate following the announcement yesterday from the Government that anyone with a high temperature or a new continuous cough stay at home for 7 days.

The measures that these families have taken are purely precautionary and there remains no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in our school community.

This is a helpful opportunity for me to outline the school's policy on managing the COVID-19 outbreak. Like all schools, we will follow the guidance being issued daily to schools from the DfE and the Local Authority. Broadly, this guidance says that schools should operate as normal unless there is a confirmed case of COVID -19 among children or staff at the school.

I will keep parents fully informed via Parent Mail if the situation changes. Our children and staff are currently ensuring enhanced handwashing takes place in school, including first thing in the morning and before the children go home.

I have also set up a page on the school website where we will also post updates as well as answers to common questions this can be found here: <https://bridge.kent.sch.uk/key-information/coronavirus-covid-19>

The Local Authority have made it clear to schools and parents that children should continue to attend as usual, so any precautionary absences taken from school will be recorded as unauthorised. However, this is unlikely to result in any further action from myself in the current circumstances. I am also aware that some parents of children with underlying health issues may have additional concerns. I would ask you to contact me directly if you feel this applies to you – although the position remains the same in that the risk is low to all children unless a positive case is discovered in our school community.

I hope this message is of some reassurance and demonstrates the school's commitment to working with our children and parents in a transparent and responsible way during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Tibbles'.

James Tibbles,
Headteacher

