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Dear parent/carer,

Following the government's decision to move to the 'delay' phase of their Coronavirus Action Plan last night I thought it might be helpful to update you on the situation in school.

Our approach to this is dictated by Public Health England (PHE) as well as the Department for Education. They are communicating with schools on a daily basis and are advising us on any actions we need to take. Up until now, this advice has been centred on promoting good personal hygiene to limit the potential spread of the virus as much as possible. To this end we have spoken to the pupils about hand-washing etc. as I'm sure you have at home. In order to further promote good hygiene habits we have also installed hand sanitiser stations around the school and have placed tissues in all classrooms. We are also ensuring that soap dispensers are topped up every day and have placed posters around the school promoting hand-washing and the use of sanitisers.

We have now also been advised to cancel all international school trips, although there is currently no specified timeline for this. Our trips do not run until July and so we do have some time to deal with this. We are already seeking clarification from travel companies who are liaising with their own advisory bodies and insurance companies. We will let you know as soon as we have any definitive news in this regard.

The government have also advised people to self-isolate for 7 days if they develop a **new, continuous cough** or a **high temperature**. This is, of course, down to your judgement; please just let us know if your child develops these symptoms and you decide he or she should be self-isolated.

We will continue to monitor the situation and adhere closely to the advice we are being given. The information we receive is no different to that which is available in the media and announced by the government. I would ask that you continue to reinforce personal hygiene with your children at home and emphasise its importance, particularly in the light of the current situation. We have also added a 'Covid-19 Advice' section to the front of our website with useful links and any updates for your information.

Thank you for your time and rest assured that we will continue to monitor this closely and respond accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams