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3 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In light of recent events, I wanted to write to you to share some of the measures we have implemented to ensure good hygiene practices in school. The main focus in school is on ensuring the regular occurrence of handwashing and that this is done as thoroughly as possible. This week staff are reinforcing the importance of good hand washing to prevent the spread of all sorts of germs, including Coronavirus, and have talked through what this means they should do. There are a number of good videos online that support this such as the Newsround clip listed in the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51698180>

We are asking children to ensure they always wash their hands regularly throughout the day, particularly after using the toilet. We will also ensure that all children wash their hands thoroughly before they eat their lunch. In addition, we have increased the regularity of handrail wiping and have also spoken to the children about catching sneezes in a tissue or their elbow. All of these are just good practice so it would be beneficial for families to discuss this at home and encourage this as much as possible.

As far as wider school policy goes, we will continue to follow the guidance from the Department for Education and Public Health England. The Coronavirus is obviously in the media a lot and our children cannot help but be aware of it, I do think it is important that we maintain a sense of perspective. Taking sensible steps to limit the spread of germs is good practice and we need to be careful to avoid overly worrying our children; this video from Newsround may help provide some perspective:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51342366>

There is obviously a lot of uncertainty at the moment and we will keep you informed of any significant changes as and when they happen.

Kind regards

Mr Justin Hoye

Headteacher

**St. John's Church of England VC Primary School**