



# The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



Executive Headteacher: Ms Maria Gilmore

Eliot Bank School  
Thorpewood Avenue  
London SE26 4BU  
Tel: 020 8699 0586  
info@eliotbank.lewisham.sch.uk  
Head of School: Mrs Katrina Walsh

Gordonbrock School  
Amyruth Road  
London SE4 1HQ  
Tel: 020 8690 0704  
admin@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk  
Head of School: Mrs Jane Wright

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: Coronavirus Concerns

I know that we are all concerned about the outbreak of coronavirus and the current situation. I am writing to reassure you that at Gordonbrock Primary School, the health and safety of our pupils is paramount and that **we continue to follow the guidance from Public Health England on the steps we should be taking.** A link to this guidance was previously published in the Gordonbrock weekly on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. We receive daily updates from the Department of Education who report that they are continually reviewing how best to support all educational settings and we follow advice from the relevant local authority departments.

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19, especially washing hands more frequently; and following the catch it, bin it, kill it strategy for those with coughs and sneezes.

In school, we are ensuring that we are keeping the site as clean as we can, to prevent the spread of any virus. We are also ensuring that children are shown how to wash their hands and that they are washing their hands regularly throughout the school day. Staff have practised the most effective way to wash their hands and they are regularly reminding pupils of this. There are posters showing the recommended handwashing technique in every classroom and all around school; staff are also modelling this for pupils.

In line with Health and Safety regulations we would ask that children do not bring their own hand sanitiser into school as these will not have been subject to our risk assessments. As outlined above we would like to reassure you that children will always have access to hand washing facilities throughout the school day and are being encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly on a more regular basis in line with government guidance.

Anti-bacterial hand gel will be available on school trips. We have been advised that Coronavirus can only be killed by sanitisers that contain at least 60% alcohol. **If your child should not have the gel applied for any reason, including medical and/or cultural, please inform the school office.**

We urge all parents to read the guidance from Public Health England and to ensure that they are following it and taking responsible action, so that we are all working together as a community to prevent the spread of infection.



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**Official Guidance** (as published on [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) last updated on 11/3/2020) **on how to avoid catching or spreading the virus is still as follows:**

**DO**

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin straight away and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

**DON'T**

- touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

**Official Guidance** (as published on [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) last updated on 11/3/2020) **on the symptoms of Coronavirus is as follows:**

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

But if you exhibit these symptoms it doesn't necessarily mean you have the illness as the symptoms of the coronavirus are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu.

**If you think that you may have the coronavirus use the NHS 111 coronavirus service. Do not go to a GP Surgery, pharmacy or hospital.**

**Official Guidance** (as published on [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/) last updated on 11.3.2020) **on what to do if you think you might have coronavirus is as follows:**

If you think you might have coronavirus or you've been in close contact with someone who has it:

- stay at home and avoid close contact with other people
- do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next; the 111 coronavirus service will tell you if you need to continue to stay at home (self-isolate) or if you need further medical advice / treatment.

**Official Travel Advice** (as published on [www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#returning-travellers](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#returning-travellers) last updated on 10/3/2020) **is as follows:**

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you've travelled to the UK from the following places, even if you do not have symptoms:
  - anywhere in Italy on or after 9 March
  - specific areas in northern Italy in the last 14 days
  - Iran in the last 14 days
  - Hubei province in China in the last 14 days
  - Daegu, Cheongdo or Gyeongdo in South Korea in the last 14 days

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people if you've travelled to the UK from the following places in the last 14 days and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath, even if your symptoms are mild:
  - Italy (outside specific areas in northern Italy) before 9 March
  - mainland China outside of Hubei province
  - South Korea outside of Daegu, Cheongdo and Gyeongsan
  - Cambodia
  - Hong Kong
  - Japan
  - Laos
  - Macau
  - Malaysia
  - Myanmar
  - Singapore
  - Taiwan
  - Thailand
  - Vietnam

Use the 111 online coronavirus service to find out what to do next. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

This is a rapidly changing situation with information emerging on a daily basis. One of the best ways to keep up to date with developments is to access 'live' information published on the gov.uk website. You can do this by going to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

Please rest assured that the school will continue to be guided by the recommendations of Public Health England and we will keep you informed of any changes to the guidance we receive.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support,

Yours sincerely,



Maria Gilmore  
Executive Head