

Aspiration  
Respect  
Endeavour

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Roding Valley  
HIGH SCHOOL

26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my initial communication with you regarding the update on the Coronavirus provided by Public Health England (PHE), I am now writing to provide further specific information about the advice we are following in light of the recent outbreak of the virus in Northern Italy and the return of the school ski trip from the resort of Prato Nevoso, in the province of Cuneo, southwest of the Piedmont region of Italy.

I can confirm that the town of Prato Nevoso is **not** one of the towns on the list of 11 towns that are currently in 'lock down' in the North of Italy. The resort is a significant distance from the affected region. We are following guidance and advice from PHE that recommends **self-monitoring** by students who have participated in the ski trip and that any student who displays any unusual symptoms that are consistent with the virus (fever or high temperatures, breathlessness, acute cough) should seek medical advice through the appropriate medical authorities, which may be accessed through the NHS 111 service.

All students and adults within the school community should adopt heightened precautionary hygiene measures such as regular and thorough washing of hands.

I hope you understand that these precautions are being taken to ensure the school community is protected as much as practically possible without disturbing the education of pupils and without generating unnecessary concerns. It is important during these times to remain calm and measured and be mindful that people are often prone to coughs and colds during this time of year. It is, therefore, important not to jump to unnecessary conclusions. Should the PHE advice and guidance related to Prato Nevoso change, or should any further relevant information be brought to light, we will update you again accordingly.

Recent guidance from PHE clarifies that if a staff member or pupil is suspected of having the virus, the school does **not** need to close. It also states that there should be no restrictions whilst laboratory tests for Coronavirus are being carried out, and that there is no need to send other children or staff home. PHE has also clarified that 'until the outcome of test results are known, there is no action that staff members need to take'.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Latest government guidance can be accessed via the attached link @ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Yours sincerely

Sharon Jenner  
Headteacher

