



17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I write this email my information is that there are still no confirmed Coronavirus (Covid 19) cases in the Solomon Islands. However, there are according to the World Health Organisation nearly 150 countries reporting cases so here at Woodford we must ensure that we are well prepared for any outbreak. To this end I have had a Senior Leadership Team meeting this morning and have an emergency board meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

The current position at the School is that if we have a case of Coronavirus affecting a student or a member of a student's immediate household we will, at least temporarily, close the School. We will, of course, also close the School if instructed to do so by the Solomon Island Government. In the meanwhile, we have been implementing precautionary general health and sanitation measures to cut the risk of spreading any illness.

All students should by the end of today have paper towels and hand washing / cleansing facilities in their actual classrooms. Teachers will continue to run through general hygiene protocols regularly. As parents please support us by ensuring that, to the best of your ability children of all ages wash their hands regularly (even as a communal activity – wash your hands with them) and that they sneeze into paper towels or tissues that are immediately disposed of. Here at Woodford we will also ensure that all work surfaces are kept clean and that door handles, light switches, keyboards and air con controls are regularly sponged with a damp cloth and a small amount of detergent.

Also, where at all possible, we will deter even minor physical contact with and between students and teachers and also act quickly to reassure any child or adult showing signs of anxiety. There is nothing wrong with anxiety, it is as natural in children as it is in adults but please use concerns to foster protection and not panic. Do remember evidence suggests that most children even if they contract the illness will suffer few if any symptoms but they can carry the virus to other more vulnerable adults.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. You will hear more from us here at Woodford very soon. If you would like to read more information, please refer to this document [Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools](#) by Unicef.

Stay healthy

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