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Wednesday, 22nd October 2014

Dear Parents,

Ebola Virus: Update from the Department for Education

The Department for Education has recommended schools communicate the following information to parents regarding the Ebola virus:

'The government is closely monitoring the spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa, and is taking action at home and abroad.'

The overall risk of Ebola to the UK remains low. However, we understand that people may be concerned where there are children, students or staff returning from or visiting Ebola-affected countries.

Advice for parents/guardians

Parents/guardians should not be unduly worried about the possibility of their children catching the Ebola Virus. The key points below have been taken directly from the Public Health England advice:

- The risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is low and to date there have been no cases of Ebola Virus Disease being contracted in the UK.*
- Any person arriving in the UK having travelled from any Ebola affected countries will be screened. If they are free of symptoms they are not infectious so there should be no restrictions on their school attendance or normal activities.*
- It is not possible to catch Ebola from a person who is not showing signs of being infected. It can only be caught by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is ill with the disease.*
- There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend school or their early years setting as normal.'*

Further information regarding the government response to Ebola can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/ebola-virus-government-response>

Yours sincerely,

Miss A. E. O'Connor
Headteacher

