



6<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

**Influenza Update**

As you know, we have responded to the current “swine flu” situation by encouraging students and staff to:

- Wash their hands using soap and water on a regular basis throughout the day
- Cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing using tissues provided
- Throw away dirty tissues quickly into bins provided around the school

All visitors to the school will be asked to clean their hands with an anti-bacterial gel when they enter the building. Teachers have also been given anti-bacterial gels to use with children in class. You might want to purchase a small bottle of this inexpensive gel yourself for your child to keep with them.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to the symptoms of human seasonal flu and include fever, fatigue, lack of appetite, coughing and sore throat. Some people with swine flu have also reported vomiting, diarrhoea and aches and pains in their limbs. If your child feels ill and shows any of these symptoms, please do not send them to school. Check with your doctor and let us know what the outcome is.

A neighbouring school is currently closed due to one student testing positive for Influenza A type H1N1 this weekend. The Health Protection Agency has decided to close their Senior School but have stated that there is no risk for the Junior School and other schools in the vicinity should continue operating normally. If this situation changes and we need to close our school we will inform you by the emergency telephone tree and a message will be posted on the homepage of [www.southbank.net](http://www.southbank.net). Teachers have contingency plans to continue teaching via our intranet and email so as to minimise any disruption to children’s learning.

We will be continuing to run all school and sporting trips (with the exception of the PTA Wheelathon) and will inform you of any changes to our schedule.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact us. The following websites contain useful information: [www.dh.gov.uk/en/PandemicFlu/index.htm](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PandemicFlu/index.htm)

[www.parentscentre.gov.uk/worriedabout/flupandemic/](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk/worriedabout/flupandemic/)

[www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/healthrelated/healthandfamilysupport/pandemicflu/](http://www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/healthrelated/healthandfamilysupport/pandemicflu/)

Stay vigilant and thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Terry Hedger  
Chair, Education Board