

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NORTHAMPTON



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Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you at this time in relation to the latest information we are aware of regarding Coronavirus. As a school, we pride ourselves on our calm, measured and well-planned responses to any scenario and I hope this letter will support this in relation to Coronavirus. In our recent newsletters, I have informed you about the virus, in addition to the actions the school has undertaken thus far. I hope these updates have reassured you. As ever, St Mary's is committed to keeping children safe and we have been rigorously following guidance for educational establishments in the UK provided to us by the Department for Education and informed by Public Health England.

Following this advice, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters in entrance area.
- Providing adequate facilities for handwashing and offering antibacterial hand gel to staff and visitors.
- Encouraging good hygiene from all members of our school
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual.

I am grateful to parents who have been encouraging good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing and speaking with your children calmly about the virus. So far, all of the above have hopefully been effective preventative measures, in place to anticipate any occurrences of coronavirus within our school. I would like to thank once again the speed and professionalism of all staff members in committing to 'getting this right' for our school. I have also made you aware previously, that if you have any questions about Coronavirus, the Department for Education has set up a helpline for queries relating to education and children's social care.

Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Self-Isolation:

The most recent advice given states that anyone with a **new persistent** cough, flu-like symptoms or high temperature is now advised to self-isolate for seven days, as the UK government moves to the "delay" phase of its plan to tackle coronavirus.

School Closure:

The Prime Minister has announced that schools are **not to close** at this time. If our school has to close, I will inform you as soon as I am able to do so. This will then be followed at a later point with information in relation to the below.

Senior Leaders are in the process of considering how we will be able to engage with yourselves as families effectively to promote learning at home within such a closure. I will inform you of our approach to this if this becomes necessary. Your support with the below points will enable any closure to be a smooth and supportive process:

- If your contact information is not up to date, please ensure you contact us immediately.
- If you are concerned by a school closure resulting in your child being unable to access free school meals, please do not hesitate to contact either Miss Gashi or I confidentially

- In the event of a school closure, you will still be able to maintain contact with the school and we will continue to work to monitor the safeguarding of children in our school.

School Events:

Please see below our current, cautious response to upcoming events. I have made these decisions in light of advice given and my personal commitment to ensure our response as a school community is extremely robust. Again, your support is appreciated.

- Decisions regarding future school events and trips will be considered **on a case by case basis** and in reflection of the latest medical advice at that time. You will be informed of changes as soon as we are able.

Also we thank you in advance for allowing us to not shake hands upon greeting you; we mean no disrespect with regard to this.

Useful Reading:

www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus

www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-how-talk-child.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask. My thanks for your support in this matter.

Best wishes

Mrs. K. Yuen

Executive Headteacher