

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Wednesday 18th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We are all faced with the new challenge posed by the Covid-19 and school is receiving daily updates from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE) regarding the Coronavirus and its impact in the UK.

Advice is still that schools should remain open unless specifically told by Public Health England or the Government to close. We have had no confirmed cases within our school community and our school remains OPEN. However if you have informed us that your child has a temperature or a cough you must follow the current guidelines of being away from school for 14 days. Please do not return to school before this length of time even if your child seems recovered **as we will not be able to let them come into school.**

We are authorising all absence where families are self-isolating due to illness or as protection for a vulnerable family member

We have taken the decision that all non-urgent events due to be held in school which would involve parents and carers attending, will be postponed until further notice. This includes: Morning Prayer and the Yr 2 SATS information evening. Additionally all sports competition have been postponed too

At school we are really stressing to the children the importance of good hygiene- understanding when and how to wash hands properly. The current advice is to wash your hands on a regular basis with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. A good website is the "e-bug hand hygiene" for KS2 or "e-bug horrid hands" for KS1/EYU.

For more information please use the following online link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>. Also the department of Education have set up a

coronavirus helpline to answer any questions that staff, parents and young people may have. The phone number is 0800 0468687 and is open 8am-6pm Mon-Fri and 10am-4pm on a weekend.

We have had a large number of pupils absent this week and have received requests for work to be sent home. You should already have the login details for Spelling shed and TT rockstars but if not just contact school for these to be resent. Children should continue to read their reading book too. Children should only do these activities if well enough.

We are currently preparing a home learning pack for ALL children in the eventuality of schools being instructed to close. These will either be given to the children who are in school or posted to those at home. We will also add links to our school website for e-learning opportunities.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I will keep you informed should any of the advice we receive change.

Best wishes

Mrs Grant