



St Mary's RC Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr J Wheatley
Chair of Governors: Mr M Currie

Tuesday 17th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing with further information regarding steps being taken in school in response to the coronavirus pandemic. As you will appreciate, information is changing day by day, and following appropriate guidance, we have been moved to take some decisions at the start of this week so as to avoid unnecessary social activity before, during and after the school day.

I have summarised the key changes (see attached), and thank you in advance for your continued patience, understanding and support with these matters at this time of uncertainty. Our priority continues to be the safety and well-being of our pupils, and school will remain open unless we are officially instructed to do closed, or indeed we do not have enough staff to run the school.

As before, please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue.
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111.
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr J Wheatley
Headteacher

Pupil absence for isolation

Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 7 days:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature (37.8° and above).

Pupils in a household where another member is suffering these symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days to account for the virus' incubation period.

For anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by phoning the school office by 9:30am on the first day of absence.

Absences of this nature will be recorded officially as 'exceptional circumstances'.

Remote learning during isolation

There are a number of learning activities that pupils can undertake if off school and under isolation. Pupils may:

- Complete homework (which parents can arrange to collect from the school office) – *please do not return this until your child returns to school.*
- Use online accounts including [Timestable Rockstars](#) and [Numbots](#) (Y1-6), [IXL](#) Maths and English (KS2), [Reading Plus](#) (Y4 and 5) to consolidate learning.
- Continue to read books from their reading folder and complete a reading diary.
- Complete independent study around individual targets (eg. Ongoing spelling targets).
- Complete revision packs provided by school (Year 6).

There are additional resources available for parents to access with their child at the following:

- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer>
- <https://classroomsecrets.co.uk/>
- <https://whiterosemaths.com/>
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk>
- <https://www.getepic.com/>
- <https://www.vooks.com/>
- <https://www.whoosreading.org/>
- www.oxfordowl.co.uk
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

At this time, staff will not prepare individualised packs of work for pupils under isolation to complete; we anticipate new absences each day, and this will create an unnecessary burden on staff to ensure tasks are appropriate to meet the needs of each learner.

Liturgies and Masses

All class liturgies and whole school Masses due to take place within the school day have been cancelled for the remainder of the term.

Reconciliation/Holy Communion

We are awaiting updated advice from Bishop Robert as to whether our sacramental preparation programme will continue and what potential impact the current coronavirus outbreak may have regarding the time and nature of these celebrations. Preparation continues in school, and all dates (including Sunday Liturgies) still stand until further notice.

Year 6 Booster Sessions

Booster sessions in Maths and English will be cancelled until Easter (in the first instance).

After-school Clubs

The following after-school clubs have been cancelled until Easter (in the first instance):

- Tennis (Monday)
- Happy Feet (Tuesday)
- Irish Dancing (Thursday)
- Gymnastics (Friday)

Sports Fixtures

All inter-school sports fixtures have been cancelled until further notice.

Swimming

Pupils in Y3 and 4 will not be attending swimming lessons for the remainder of the term. We will send further communication in the Summer Term regarding plans for swimming.

Volunteers

We are suspending all volunteer roles in school until further notice.

Mothers' Day Sale

The Mothers' Day Sale will still go ahead and will be operated by St Mary's staff. We would ask that no more gifts are sent in to school. However, pupils are asked to bring in a gift bag of their own in to school in order to transport home their gift. **Please send money in to school in a clearly labelled, sealed envelope; no change will be given on the day as we are trying to avoid the potential for unnecessary contamination in school.**

School trips (including residential)

A decision has yet to be made regarding visits planned for the Summer Term. We are in communication with all providers and aim to communicate decisions regarding all planned trips at the earliest possible opportunity.