

Wednesday 18th March 2020

Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Department for Education and Public Health England have issued updated guidance for education settings on COVID-19. Following this update from the government, we would like to advise:

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others.
- If staff or children become unwell at school with a new continuous cough or a temperature, they will be sent home.
- Anyone living with someone showing the symptoms should self-isolate for 14 days.
- The Government still want schools to stay open.
- We should avoid unnecessary social contact.

All staff are ensuring that children regularly wash their hands throughout the day. In addition to this, we are carrying out additional cleaning, more frequently before, during and after the school day.

We would ask, at this point, that you only enter the school building if it is absolutely necessary and only through the main entrance to the school office. If your query can be managed by phone or online, then please use this form of communication.

We would like to reassure you that we are taking all the necessary advice from the government and the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust to ensure that we reduce the chance of spreading infection within our community. We are still open and will continue to be until we are advised otherwise.

As a school, we have been planning for the event of possible school closure. On Friday 20th March 2020, all children will receive a pack containing work for home learning put together by their teacher. This does not mean the school will close on Friday. We will remain open until we are directed to close by the government. Children should continue to come to school if they are well enough to do so and are not self-isolating.

The home learning pack is being sent home in case government guidance changes in the upcoming weeks and the school is told to close. The home learning packs contain English, Maths, R.E and wider learning opportunities to work on at home, to ensure that every possible effort has been made for your child to continue their education at home.

We have also been working hard to put plans in place for the children to be able to access home learning opportunities through our school website. From Monday 23rd March 2020, parents and children will be able to access their child's home learning class page through the Pupil Zone and Home Learning tab of the school's website. Here, parents and children can access website links and extra learning opportunities to take ownership of their education whilst they are unable to attend school. In the event of a school closure, every Monday, class teachers will upload the work which needs to be completed each week.

The safety of all staff and pupils is our main priority and we will act in the best interest to ensure this. If you feel you or your family are vulnerable and self-isolation is the best course of action, the school will support this. This applies for all children, staff and families within our community.

If your child is already staying at home, either because of illness or self-isolation, <u>please can</u> <u>you make arrangements for your child's home learning pack to be picked up from the school office on Friday 20th March 2020, in the afternoon</u>. You should then continue to visit the school website's Home Learning Page, through the Pupil Zone to access weekly updates until we are all safely back at school.

Thank you again for your understanding and ongoing support,

C. Reilly and S. Sweeney Co-Headteachers

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