



St. Mark's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher
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Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are all aware, there is a huge amount of media coverage around the coronavirus. Please make sure you talk to your children about this and reassure them, as unfortunately they can often get pieces of information which can obviously make them worry. The Local Authority is working closely with schools to support them to follow the national guidelines on how to respond to suspected and confirmed cases of Covid19 Coronavirus. These guidelines are being regularly updated based on the latest evidence and the evolving picture.

We have decided to postpone all school trips until further notice and we will not be inviting parents/carers or members of the public into school events such as assemblies, Mass, meetings and workshops.

What is the school currently doing to reduce the chances of the virus getting into school?

- We are closely monitoring the local and national picture.
- We are liaising closely with Birmingham Local Authority who are liaising with the Department for Education and Public Health England.
- We are teaching the children best hygiene practice and would encourage you to continue to discuss hygiene with your children.
- We have increased the cleaning on key touch points (handles, buttons, rails etc.).
- Every classroom and communal area is cleaned daily.
- We continue to use tissues for each class to ensure these can be offered out if a child has a cold, and we are reminding children to sneeze or blow their nose into a tissue and to wash their hands – “catch it, bin it, kill it!”
- We are ensuring that children wash their hands thoroughly before mealtimes and when they have gone to the toilet.
- We are monitoring any child or staff absence and are asking about any symptoms they may have and advising accordingly.
- We are looking at how we can adapt any activities which have an increased potential of the spreading of virus e.g. food tasting, assemblies.



What will the school do if there is a confirmed case in school?

- We will immediately contact the local authority and take advice from them, Public Health England and the guidance in place at that time from the World Health Organisation.
- The Headteacher will liaise with the Chair of Governors to discuss the advice and decide whether we feel that is sufficient. We will then make a decision as to what needs to happen.
- We will ensure we communicate as promptly as possible and keep parents well informed (the text system will be used to communicate).

Please remember the following:

How to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Don't

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

Please keep your child at home for 7 days if they have either:

- a high temperature - you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- a new, continuous cough - this means you've started coughing repeatedly

Yours sincerely

Mrs. D. Linley
Head Teacher

