



St Mary's Catholic First School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Fearn



17th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus Update

Please be aware that our focus is on keeping our school open at present, as per government guidance, and as stated in our newsletter. We are also making plans so that we can remain open in the event of multiple staff illness and we will keep information coming home as we have it. However as part of contingency planning we thought we would update you on what the school will do in the event of school closure. We are NOT expecting it to happen currently but it is prudent that we plan.

We will be using our school website and Tapestry to share learning for the children. Each class will have a folder to access and we will also have family activities to complete. If you do not have access to the internet at home please can you let the school office know. We will try to support families who do not have internet access with learning shared on paper.

In order to help us prepare for this please could I remind you to update us with any new phone numbers (especially mobiles) and email addresses if any of your details have changed recently.

This means that we are unable to send home bespoke work to children in addition to planning and teaching for the children in school.

We would suggest that you continue with daily reading and spelling practice and also number work e.g. number bonds and times tables. Please also have a look at our website under Curriculum, all topic work is listed, you could try some of this at home.

In respect of last night's announcement on the guidance to stay at home for a period of 14 days if you or your child develops a temperature or persistent cough. The latest update is for everyone in the home to self-isolate for 14 days if one person in the household displays the symptoms of the virus.



If you are having to self-isolate because someone in the home displays symptoms of Coronavirus, your child's official attendance figures will not be adversely affected by this, as it will be authorised.

We would advise all parents to keep themselves informed with the most up-to-date information from the NHS England and the GOV.UK/coronavirus websites so that you can make a decision as to whether you feel you need to self-isolate.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time for everyone and that individual families will need to make decisions based on their own circumstances.

I would like to reassure you that we understand those circumstances where there is a medical need to isolate a family. As it stands, St Mary's Catholic First School will remain open unless we are directed by the Government or Local Authority to do otherwise, or unless staffing the school adequately becomes impossible.

Look after yourselves in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

P. Fearn

Mrs Paula Fearn
Head Teacher