

ST ANNE'S RC PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

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Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update

17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing in regards to the continuing situation we are managing around COVID-19 Coronavirus.

The children's safety and that of the staff is of paramount importance. Governing Body Members and I met on several occasions last week and again today in order to produce a contingency plan so that we are clear about what to do in the following cases:

- Minimising the likelihood of infection
- Minimising pupil contact with outside agencies
- Staff shortages due to the outbreak
- School closure – only in the event that we cannot operate safely due to staff shortages or we are directed to close by the government.

In the event that we are affected by staff shortages, we have produced a clear plan that encompasses actions we can take in light of the above.

Minimising the likelihood of infections

Within school, we have taken the following precautions:

- Children and staff are washing their hands regularly and for a longer length of time
 1. Before leaving home
 2. On arrival to school
 3. After using the toilet
 4. After breaks and sporting activities
 5. Before eating food
- Children have been shown how to wash their hands correctly and are supervised more in their handwashing
- Additional cleaning of the school and of objects regularly in use is carried out everyday
- Tissues available
- Posters directing children how to wash their hands correctly

Pupils should attend school **UNLESS YOUR CHILD IS DISPLAYING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:**

- **A new, continuous cough and/or**
- **High temperature**

If your child is exhibiting any of these symptoms, they should remain at home for 14 days from when the symptoms started and should not leave the house.

- If your child is unwell, you should report it to school with clear detail as per normal school procedures
- If your child presents with any of the symptoms whilst at school, you will be contacted to come and collect your child straight away (**If you recently changed your contact details please inform the school office as soon as possible**)
- **If your child or you are considered to be a vulnerable group please go to:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

The advice from the government is changing daily so please keep up-to-date with the governments' advice. You can do this by:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

News updates from providers such as BBC, ITV, Sky and channel 4.

Minimising pupil contact with outside agencies:

A number of the external providers we work with have already contacted us to say that they are withdrawing their staff from schools at this time until further notice.

- Visitors in to school have been cancelled
- No face to face parent meetings
- Any external providers of school clubs have been cancelled until further notice
- Swimming lessons will not go ahead until further notice
- Inter-school competitions will not go ahead
- Staff will not be going out on courses or training

Staff shortages due to the outbreak

- A comprehensive plan is in place outlining pupil to staff ratios that will enable us to keep school open if we have significant staff absence.

Currently we are fully open with all classes operating normally. However, this situation could change on a day to day basis. Breakfast Club and After School Care also remain open for the time being but are also susceptible to daily changes if impacted by staff shortages.

Possible school closure/partial closure

- Currently this would only be for two reasons: in the event that we cannot operate safely due to staff shortages or we are directed to close by the government.
- Staff shortages may mean that we will be partially open. This means that we may need to close certain classes, but we will inform you of this as soon as we are able to do so.

You will of course be concerned about the children's education if the school is closed. We have taken the following actions so far:

- We have created home learning links on each class page on our website.
- Click on the 'Learning' tab, your child's class page, curriculum and you will see 'Home Learning Login'. Teachers are spending time after school today to upload activities for children who are unable to attend school.

-Your child can download work and upload to the 'completed' folder once the work has been done.

-Please save your child's uploaded work with your child's initials and the date it is uploaded.

- If you prefer, this work can be printed and done by hand, then marked by an adult in your household.

- We have subscriptions to My Maths, Purple Mash and Times Table Rock Stars which provides children with educational activities online.
- Reading, reading, reading! This is the best way to ensure your child/ children stay on track. Exposure to lots of different types of texts will help them develop their vocabulary.
- Be creative: drawing, painting, opportunities to roleplay and perform.
- Keep active if possible.

We would be grateful if you can let the office/ class teacher know the following within the next 24 hours:

- Your most up to date contact numbers and addresses if this has recently changed
- If you do not have any stationary at home for your children to use in the event of closure
- If you do not have internet access
- If your child needs the login details for the online education sites mentioned above

Finally, I just want to thank you all for your continued support. We will keep you updated on the school's position via text messages as this is the quickest form of communication. If you do not receive school texts, please contact the office.

Kind regards,

S Nally
Acting Headteacher