



ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 17th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to update you on the plans being made here at St. John's, in response to the government's latest advice on tackling the coronavirus, COVID-19. Whilst the Government has stated that schools are not being directed to close at this stage, the advice given may well impact on schools, including St. John's.

The Governors and I want to keep the school open as much as possible and for as long as possible. Therefore, it is very important that everyone washes their hands regularly and follows the most recent advice, which is that anyone with 'a new, continuous' cough or a high temperature self-isolates for 14 days; government advice now states that the whole family would need to self-isolate if one member has symptoms. More information is on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

Please do not send children into school if they have either of the symptoms noted above, or if someone in your household has these symptoms. You should not come to school yourself if you also have either of these symptoms. Anyone displaying these symptoms, including staff, will need to leave the school site as soon as possible. Parents and carers need to have plans in place to quickly collect their child if they are asked to collect their child from the school. We have to work together in order to reduce or slow down the potential impact of the virus.

It is also possible that a high number of school staff may be required to self-isolate. This could have serious implications on how the school operates in the near future. I have a detailed risk assessment that includes the Minimum Staffing Requirements (MSR) for the school to be able to operate.

In order to remain open I may have to implement one or more of the following strategies:

- In the event of many teachers being absent the school may have to suspend the normal curriculum and the children will be have different activities, such as art, play, PE, films, etc
- More than one class could be supervised in the hall.
- It is expected that the number of children attending school will decrease if the number of staff decreases. Therefore children from different classes may be grouped together.
- I may have to close the nursery, as it is non-statutory, in order to release staff to cover elsewhere.

I appreciate that these options will have a great impact on families and I can guarantee that any decisions taken will be with the safety of the children and staff at its heart.

These are unprecedented times and the information and guidelines from Government are being updated at least daily. I will keep you all informed of any changes via our school text and email systems, the school website, and the school social media feeds. It is, therefore, vitally important that the school has all of your **current telephone number(s) and email addresses**; please contact the main school office if you need to update any contact information. I may have to send out information with very little notice, so please look out for messages from the school.

As noted in Friday's newsletter, packs are being prepared for home learning should the school be required to close. We are looking into how we can provide content on line for children to access learning – **I would ask that you inform the school office if your child does not have access to the internet so that we can plan accordingly.**

Finally, it is very important that we all protect the children from worry and upset. We have been reassuring the children and we will continue to do this. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support. I will be in touch again soon.

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher

