

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School

Head teacher: Mrs. E Robertson

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13th March 2020

Dear parent,

RE: The school's infection control measures

I am writing to you regarding St Mary's current position concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. Our approach to this crisis is to follow the latest guidance from the Government and Public Health England.

As you will be aware, the Government have decided against forced closure of schools in the UK. New guidance was issued yesterday regarding self-isolation for 7 days with symptoms of coronavirus infection (Covid-19), however mild. The stay at home advice can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Any child who has a persistent cough or high temperature over 37.8 degrees should not come into school and must self-isolate for the advised 7 days. Please use the usual absence reporting procedures, should children be self-isolating under the current guidance. If any child presents at school with a persistent cough they will be sent home and parents/carers will be contacted to collect them. Staff have also been issued the same advice. Should any parent/carer or child be diagnosed with having Covid-19 please ring the school.

As per the advice from the government, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Putting up coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school

- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school. If you do not wish your child to use this, please notify us by completing the attached form.
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell and isolating any unwell people in a separate room
- Advising people who have returned from category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to self-isolate for 14 days before they return to school
- Advising people who have returned from category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to stay at home if they develop symptoms – the full list of category 1 and category 2 countries can be found on the government website.
- Deeper cleaning of areas in the school, increased regular cleaning of all surfaces including door handles, backs of chairs, desk tops, etc.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing, at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

The guidance issued by the Government yesterday did not extend to a ban on public gatherings such as sporting fixtures and concerts. At this current time, we plan to continue with our scheduled calendar of events and activities. We will have to consider each event individually and we will notify parents/carers should there be any changes to the calendar.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact the school on 01642 581716 or email: StMarys@sbcschools.org.uk at the earliest opportunity.

These are uncertain and unprecedented times and we are endeavouring to maintain a sense of calm and normality for our children whilst prioritising the health of our children, staff and wider community. Your understanding and support is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Robertson

Head Teacher