

All Saints' Catholic Primary School

Kitswell Road, Lanchester, Durham, DH7 0JG

Tel: 01207 520435 Fax: 01207 528721

e-mail: lanchesterallsaints@durhamlearning.net

website: www.lanchester.durham.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs. F. Stephenson Deputy Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Conlin

Chair of Governors: Mr. M. Quigley



Monday 16th March, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you about the school's current position regarding Coronavirus.

We take the health and safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff very seriously, and, as such, we want to reassure you that we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education (DfE).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a complex and rapidly changing situation. My first priority will always be the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school. Now more than ever, this remains my primary focus.

Already in school we have given numerous demonstrations of how to wash hands, reminded children to wash hands frequently, added more soap and hand sanitizer into classrooms and prominent areas around school, amended our cleaning regime, ensured visitors entering into school washed their hands with anti-bacterial cleaning products and worked with children to ensure high standard of cleanliness. Please also be reminded of the helpline number (0800 046 8687) which has been given out on our past two newsletters.

Looking at our individual school context and particularly the limited space in the hall, it is with regret that I would like to inform you of the following:

Reception and Year Three's class assemblies will not go ahead;

Visits to school (such as the Open the Book assemblies) will not take place;

Parents' Evenings will not take place at the present time – if you would like to discuss a particular issue with your child's class teacher, please get in touch with the school office and suitable arrangements will be made;

Children will not attend class Masses;

Year Three & Year Four will not participate in the County's dance festival on Thursday.

For now, after school clubs will continue to operate but this will be reviewed on a regular basis. We will continue to follow daily updated guidance and will keep you informed regarding class swimming lessons and the upcoming residential to Northumberland for Year Five pupils. If circumstances arise where the school must close, we will inform you in our usual way which is via text message, our



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school website and Twitter page. We are currently making plans for supporting your child's education should a closure become necessary and will keep you informed on this.

Prevent the Spread of Infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

Wash your hands often with soap and water and scrub for at least twenty seconds (or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water are not available);

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;

Avoid close contact with people who are unwell;

If you feel unwell, stay at home and do not attend work or school;

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, place the tissue in a bin and then wash your hands;

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in your home.

If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111; do not go directly to your G.P. or other healthcare environments. The most recent U.K. government advice (12.03.2020) is that anyone with a new continuous cough and a high temperature should self-isolate for seven days. If you or your children have returned from abroad in the last fourteen days, please follow the link below for advice about Category One & Two countries:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas-with-implications-for-returning-travellers-or-visitors-arriving-in-the-uk>

As I previously mentioned, we are following the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE but this is being updated regularly in response to the changing situation. We will monitor and follow the national guidance as it is updated and would urge you to do the same.

Whilst I appreciate that there will be a wide range of differing views about how we should be responding and what action should be taken, I hope you appreciate this is a difficult and unprecedented situation. If you or your child has any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, many thanks for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mrs. F. Stephenson



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