



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr C Newstead



Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This letter aims to update you on our preparations within school in response to the spread of Coronavirus (Covid 19) as of 3:15 p.m. on 16.3.2020. Updates from the Department for Education, Knowsley Council and Public Health England have been used as a basis for our planning. We recognise that you may have some concerns and I would like to assure you that comprehensive plans are in place in school.

Currently, there are no school closures in Knowsley. The Local Authority will continue to advise schools of actions in line with Government recommendations.

Day to Day Response

We are encouraging all of our staff and children to follow Public Health guidance and keep high levels of personal hygiene; this includes making sure that we are directing children/students and staff to wash their hands:

- 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

Please be assured, we have plenty of hand wash available in school for children to use.

Our standard cleaning processes will continue but are also taking extra precautions within our cleaning arrangements and making sure that frequent contact points such as door handles are cleaned regularly. Our Cleaning Provider has assured us that plans are in place to provide an enhanced or deep clean quickly when required.

We have talked to the children/students about the virus and how it is spread so that they can make sensible choices and follow the Public Health Guidance 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.'

Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

Coronavirus is a virus that is spread through close contact with an infected person. The incubation period for the virus is 2 – 14 days. This means that if a person remains well after 14 days of contact with an infected person it is unlikely they have been infected.

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after contact with someone who has COVID-19 infection:

- **new** continuous cough
- fever (raised temperature)

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease. There is no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups – and it is important to remember that very few cases have been reported in children so far.

If you or a family member present with these symptoms the advice of health professionals is to self-isolate for 7 days, as far as possible. After 7 days, if anyone is still unwell, then seek medical advice from NHS online <https://111.nhs.uk> . If you cannot access the online advice, then ring NHS 111. If symptoms worsen during your self-isolation, seek prompt medical advice.

If children feel better after 7 days and no longer have a temperature, they can return to school. The guidance does say that a cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared.

Reporting Absence:

Our current system for reporting absence remains in place. If your child is absent for any reason, you should contact the school as soon as possible and explain what the reason is for your child not being able to attend school. If your child has symptoms that could indicate that they have corona virus: new continuous cough and/or fever (raised temperature) and you have been advised that they should self-isolate for 7 days, you should inform school, in these cases pupils will be assigned a specific absence code, the absence will be authorised and will not lead to a fixed term penalty notice due to absence.

Communication

Please make sure that school has up to date contact information for you and any other contacts. Information will be shared with parents and carers by text message, letter and/or school website <http://stjosephshuyton.co.uk/>

ALL information you need in relation to changes at school will be posted on these official channels. Do not rely on other sources such as non-school related social media to inform your decision making.

Planning in Place:

The Council is currently planning to make sure that any local response to COVID-19 is co-ordinated and services to schools are included in this planning. Contingency plans are in place for Council services to schools and we are receiving regular updates in relation to this.

An important part of our preparations are making sure that we have contingency plans for a variety of scenarios, including a temporary closure if instructed to do so by Public Health England. We have made the decision to cancel any non-essential visits to school and staff have been instructed to not attend any non-essential meetings offsite.

Currently, we have planned for 3 separate scenarios:

1. Instruction from Government to close for a specified period of time

If this happens, pupils to access education via the following:

Access our school website <http://stjosephshuyton.co.uk/> Follow the Links tab to Links for Pupils. Access the websites linked to your child's class:

Top Marks – Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 (Infants)

KS1 – Years 1 and 2

KS2 – Year 3, 4, 5 & 6

There are also links to specific subjects.

Children should access all subjects, but spend most of their time on sites linked to maths and English

There are also the following:

Reception, Y1 & Y2 – Phonics Bug for daily phonics work

Years 1 to 6 – Spelling Shed

Years 2 to 6 – Times Table Rock Stars and Maths Factor

Furthermore, there will be a Phonics Pack sent home for Year 1 pupils and revision packs sent home for pupils in Year 2 and Year 6.

2. Instruction to implement social distancing and limit the contact of groups of people

It may be that some classes may remain open, although this scenario is highly unlikely. In this case, education for these pupils would continue in school, with other pupils accessing education as described in 1 above.

3. Staff Absence levels cause need for closure

It may be that some classes may remain open, although this scenario is highly unlikely. In this case, education for these pupils would continue in school, with other pupils accessing education as described in 1 above

Forthcoming Events at School:

Exam Preparation There is a range of revision material and activities available on the links mentioned above. In addition, teachers will send out packs for Year 1 Phonics, Year 2 and Year 6 revision materials.

Events. We are also reviewing all trips, events, fixtures and visits and will update as and when decisions are made. At present this will be on a case by case basis.

We hope that implementing such plans will not be necessary but we will always make decisions with the needs, health and welfare of children first. Thank you for your continued support and your understanding in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

C. Newstead

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