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"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

17th March 2020

Dear Parents

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION No. 3

I am writing to update you in response to the changing picture of coronavirus.

To date, we have not received any confirmation regarding staff or children being tested and diagnosed with the virus.

The update received yesterday afternoon from the Department for Education became 'out of date' extremely quickly in light of the Prime Minister's update later that afternoon.

Here is today's update today from the Department for Education:

This is your daily email to keep you updated on the government's response to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

New guidance for households with symptoms

Yesterday, the Government introduced new guidance on whole household isolation in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, **stay at home** for **7 days** from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or another member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must **stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days**. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for **14 days** will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for **7 days** from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

The full stay at home guidance for households with these symptoms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.

Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

IN SCHOOL:

If staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home.

N.B. Parents should only be keeping their children off school if they are self isolating or following NHS 111 advice.

FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS / CANCELLATIONS FOR HOLY NAME SCHOOL:

- Our pupils will not be reading / participating at mass in church on **Sunday 22nd March**
- **Y3** pupils will not be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Friday 27th March**
- **Toast** will no longer be provided by the PTA on Tuesdays and Thursdays – please send your child into school with a snack (ideally fresh fruit but it is understood that there may be difficulties purchasing your usual groceries. N.B **no products containing nuts** are allowed in school)
- **Water bottles:** these will be sent home with your child every evening. Please wash them in hot, soapy water and refill them with water ready to be brought back to school the next day.

OTHER INFORMATION:

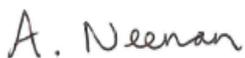
Please get your child to wash their hands immediately **before they leave home** to get in school (in the morning) and **as soon as they enter home** after school (in the afternoon)

Please note, school have had no guidance or information about planned or possible school closures. However please ensure that your contact details / email addresses are all up to date.

I will keep you informed of any further advice received from Public Health England and Sandwell Local Authority in due course.

This is a very distressing and difficult time for everyone. As always, we are very grateful (and fortunate!) to have such great support from our families. Please be as kind and considerate as you can to everyone in our school and parish community and avoid any rumour-spreading or gossip so that we are doing our best to look after and support each other.

Yours sincerely



Mr A. G. Neenan

Headteacher