

# HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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We work  
together through  
the love of God



16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find attached the latest advice from Public Health and information regarding school protocol for school closure. The general advice we are receiving is that school will continue to stay open, but we have had a number of pupils and staff who are having to self-isolate and therefore we want to prepare for any eventuality. We hope this letter communicates the spirit of such an approach and reassures families that we shall be ready to act if a closure occurs.

Schools are used to developing contingency plans for all sorts of eventualities. You will not be surprised to learn that we have updated our plan in the event of a general school closure.

We feel it is the right time to outline what would happen in the event of a closure, so that we could maintain all pupils' progression through the curriculum under very unusual circumstances.

- Teachers in Year 6, 5 and 4 will set classwork via the google classroom.
- In Year 3 and Key Stage 1 the children will bring home a pack of work as well as additional reading books.
- In Reception children will take home additional reading books and Key words to learn.
- Safety and wellbeing checks would be maintained throughout a period of closure for vulnerable students and families. Meanwhile, we would provide information on who to contact in the event of a family emergency or crisis. Families will never be left isolated or cut off from this school!
- Teachers will also use class dojo to keep parents informed of any developments. During any school closure the messaging service will be opened so parents can message staff.
- The school email will still be accessed during any period of closure.

We know that these measures assume that pupils and staff are well and able to set work and complete activities. We wish to reassure you that there is no suggestion that staff or pupils will be expected to continue life as normal if they are unwell. If any one of us becomes unwell, we must rest and recover.

Our plans acknowledge that families may not have access to a printer, laptop or PC (or that a single device might be shared across a family). However, we are working on the assumption that the vast majority of pupils will have access to the internet and a computer. If this is not the case, please could you inform the school so we can put in appropriate alternative measures.

In the event of a general closure you will receive a confirmation letter from me.

Please also see the following up to date advice from Public Health

## Message from Director of Public Health – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

As a result of increasing number of cases, the government have announced the move from containment to delay phase of our response to COVID-19.

This leads to significant change in the way we identify and manage potential cases of COVID-19.

The updated advice for people who suspect they have coronavirus is as follows:

1. You must stay at home (self-isolate), regardless of the travel history or contact with confirmed cases, if you have:
  - a. A new continuous cough

OR

- b. High temperature (of 37.8c or higher)
2. The geographic element of the case definition has now been removed. Travel and contact history are no longer important for diagnosis, which is on the basis of symptoms alone. If people who have travelled do not have symptoms they do not need to stay at home, regardless of their travel history.



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Symptomatic Individuals should stay at home (self-isolate) for 7 days from the onset of symptoms following the current advice.

People who have the above symptoms and suspect they have Covid-19 will no longer be tested.

If someone has serious symptoms, they cannot manage at home they should use NHS 111 online (people should only call NHS111 if they cannot get online).

After 7 days of self-isolation, people who feel better and no longer have a high temperature can return to their normal routine. If they have not had any signs of improvement after 7 days and have not already sought medical advice, they should use NHS111 before they leave their home or let visitors in. Cough may persist for several weeks in some people, despite the coronavirus infection having cleared. **A persistent cough alone does not mean someone must continue to stay at home for more than 7 days.**

If you are a suspect case and self-isolate, the public and the organisations concerned do not have to take extra measures beyond this, for now. The above measures have been put in place to protect vast majority of the public while causing minimum impact on the day to day business.

As we move further into Delay phase, the government may consider other measures like social distancing in the future. It is very important that we don't deviate from the current government position, which is based on best scientific evidence available to us. It is also important that we take a longer-term view on this. We need to make sure the right measures are put in place at the right time, to ensure maximum positive impact. Otherwise it can be extremely counterproductive.

The evidence still indicates that most cases experience mild flu like symptoms. If you do have any concern please do visit the public health website [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) which provides up to date reliable information. As the situation evolves further new information will be added to this website.

You can continue to take sensible precautions to help slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus:

- Always carry tissues to catch your cough or sneeze
- Bin used tissues as quickly as possible
- Wash your hands often with warm water and soap

Thank you for the overwhelming support we have received from families on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Buchanan