



13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update regarding COVID-19

The government has announced that we are now moving into the delay stage of the national Coronavirus strategy. We continue to act under the guidance of the Government, DFE and public Health England and will update our advice accordingly.

The school will remain open in line with Government and Public Health England guidance. In line with guidance anyone with a new and persistent cough, and/or a high temperature should self-isolate and stay away from school for at least 7 days. Further information from the Government can be found at <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>. We will keep you updated with texts, information on the website and our social media. If you have any concerns please use the internet and 111 for advice should you or a family member display symptoms. If your child has an underlying condition please contact your GP for information and contact the school with any updates.

As a school we have taken the decision to postpone any educational visits, parent evenings, and any school events – including Class Masses at St Joseph's - until further notice. Rainbow Assemblies and Class Masses (in the school hall) will now be attended by children only. Please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any concerns or unanswered questions.

Please see below for the existing advice and links that should help you further.

COVID-19: specified countries and areas with implications for returning travellers or visitors arriving in the UK in the last 14 days

Category 1: Travellers should self-isolate, even if they have no symptoms, and use the [111 online coronavirus service](#) to find out what to do next. Go home or to your destination and then self-isolate.

- Wuhan city and Hubei Province (China, [see map](#))
- Iran
- Daegu or Cheongdo (Republic of Korea, [see map](#))
- Italy** - the guidance for Italy applies to travellers who returned from the country on or after **9 March 2020**.

Category 2: Travellers do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

- Cambodia
- China*
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Republic of Korea*
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

*Except areas of the country specifically referred to in Category 1

** (i) Travellers who returned from areas of Northern Italy that were under containment measures ([see map](#)) between 19 February and 8 March 2020 should self-isolate for 14 days. If they develop symptoms they should contact NHS111. (ii) Travellers who returned from the rest of Italy before 9 March 2020 do not need to undertake any special measures, but if they develop symptoms they should self-isolate and call NHS 111.

Please see full government travel advice here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Symptoms of Coronavirus:

A cough
A high temperature
Shortness of breath

But these symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. For more details please see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please ensure that you are following the general advice of regularly hand washing, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands and carrying tissues to catch coughs and sneezes etc. You can find more information here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

Department for Education helpline:

The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Yours faithfully



Mrs Lisa Lazell
Executive Headteacher