



# St Joseph's

Catholic Primary School

Commerell Street, East Greenwich, SE10 9AN

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17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share the actions we will be taking to keep St Joseph's Primary School open/partially open during this time. There are many different scenarios we must be prepared for and I wish to alert you to them. I will also include updated information from Public Health England regarding Covid 19.

Our aim is to try and keep the school day as normal as possible for the children we are able to accommodate in school. However, as you know, anyone who is displaying symptoms of a high fever/cough will need to self – isolate, along with whole families if one person is displaying these symptoms. The isolation period is now 14 days. This will inevitably lead to staff shortages. As a school we will follow the plan below:

- Cover staff absence internally, where possible
- Collapse classes (a class with low numbers due to absence, could be split across other classes in the year group/phase firstly)
- Split classes (pupils could be split across the wider school)
- Have no new supply teachers into the school to prevent infection; supply staff that are currently on long term contracts will stay
- Partially close the school and deploy staff to year groups that remain open.
- If staff levels are critically low, we will need to close the school
- The DFE and Government may enforce closure of the school

We would begin closing year groups that need the highest ratio of adult to child, in the following order:

- Reception
- KS1
- KS2

You will be contacted you by 7.30 am if we are closing any classes. **If you are not contacted, school is open for your child/children to attend.**

### **Preparation for the event of a whole school closure**

All children will come home with the access information and passwords needed for your child to access the resources we would use in the event of school closure. If St Joseph's does close, teachers will set learning to be undertaken at home and update weekly. There will also be non-screen based work menus for your children. **We do not expect any materials or completed activities to be returned to school, due to the risk of cross contamination.** Files, photographs, etc can be shared via email .

### **If your child is currently not in school**

For children that are currently not in school, we will email you a copy of the letter that is being sent out. Currently, teachers will not be expected to set work for online learning, as the school is open and teacher workload is focused on planning, preparing, teaching and marking for children that are present. However, the links and resources in the letter will be useful for children that are not in school and are well. If your child is unwell, we would not expect them to undertake learning.

### **GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High temperature
- For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection

### **MAIN MESSAGES**

- If you have symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, do not leave your home for 14 days from when your symptoms started
- Self-isolation means that you are helping to protect others in your community whilst you may be infectious
- If one member of the family develops a temperature or a cough, then all household members must stay at home for 14 days
- If your child develops these symptoms at school, we will contact you and ask that you keep your child at home for 14 days so that government guidelines will be followed
- Everyone should avoid social gatherings as much as possible.
- By next weekend, those with the most serious health conditions must be 'largely shielded from social contact for around 12 weeks.' This is to protect the vulnerable
- The group of people who should take "particular care to minimise their social contact" are:
  - People over the age of 70
  - Other adults who would normally be advised to have the flu vaccine – those with chronic illness
  - Pregnant women

### **TIPS FOR SELF-ISOLATION GUIDANCE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND.**

**Please see 'Stay at home: Guidance for households with possible coronavirus' – Gov.uk website**

- Plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home
- Ask your employer, friends and family to help you get the things you need to stay at home
- Stay at least 2 metres (about 3 steps) away from other people in your home if possible
- Sleep alone, if possible
- Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- Stay away from vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions, as much as possible

You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 14 days, contact [NHS111 online](#). If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999

Please see 'Ending self-isolation and household-isolation' guidance – Gov. uk website for information once the 14 days has elapsed and nobody within the household is displaying symptoms

Over the last few days, parents and carers have been asking how they can help the community. This is showing great community spirit and we are extremely thankful. As a school, we are aware of the shortages of food, nappies, toilet roll, baby food etc due to 'stock pile' buying. This has meant that the foodbank and local shops have limited stock to offer. Staff are donating non-perishable items to the office and we will make up emergency packs for members of our community who are self-isolating and have limited or no support. We will also take donations to the food bank. If you would like to support us in this then please leave any donations with the office team. We will continue to keep you updated with any new information and guidelines.

On behalf of the school and community, I would like to thank you for your support, understanding and consideration you are giving to your own circumstances and to help others.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lazell', written in black ink.

Lisa Lazell  
Executive Head Teacher  
Cardwell, Eglinton and St Joseph's Primary Schools