



Coronavirus Advice & Information 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you will be aware, the situation regarding the Coronavirus outbreak is changing on a daily basis. I would like to update you on the latest advice available.

St Matthew's are committed to keeping children, staff, parents and visitors safe and we have been following all advice for educational establishments in the UK provided to us by the Department for Education and Public Health England.

Following this advice, the school have taken the following actions for infection control:

- Displaying infection control measures information posters around the school
- Providing adequate facilities for handwashing with soap and water
- Encouraging good hygiene from all members of our school community by promoting the information pictured below
- Ensuring hard surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual

You can help to slow the spread of Coronavirus.

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home.
- **If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environments.**

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?					
If you need to cough or sneeze			You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser		
					
Catch it with a tissue	Bin it	Kill it by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser	After breaks & sport activities	Before cooking & eating	SCHOOL ETC.
					
			After using the toilet	Before leaving home	
	Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands			Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles	
				If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels	

Self-isolation

The most recent advice states that anyone with a new, persistent cough, flu-like symptoms or high temperature (above 37.8°) is now advised to self-isolate for seven days. We will authorise self-isolation in line with government guidance. If children present with these symptoms at school we will contact you to collect them.

Department for Education Coronavirus helpline - this helpline has been set up to answer questions about the virus related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline.

- Phone: 0800 046 8687
- Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk
- Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Coronavirus School Closure Procedure

The Prime Minister has announced that schools are NOT to close at this time. Our school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- on instruction from the Department for Education.
- on advice, if there is a confirmed case within our school community.

Steps taken to decide on whether to close the school will be as follows:

- The Headteacher will liaise with the Local Authority and Chair of Governors and a joint decision will be made whether the school should be open or not should it not be under instruction from central government.

The decision to open school, or not, will be communicated to staff and communicated to parents via ParentMail, Twitter and the school website as soon as the decision is made. It will be communicated by 3pm each day regarding the following day unless a set period has been given, for example, seven days.

School Assemblies

We have taken the decision to cancel all assemblies and postpone all class assemblies and celebration assemblies for the rest of this term. The aim is to reduce high numbers of people gathering together in a confined space, where possible.

Home Learning

In the event of school closure, plans have been put in place for your children's continuing education. Year leaders will communicate with parents through ParentMail and work will be set accordingly. Examples of learning will also be posted on the website and the year group blogs. Children will be required to have access to the internet to complete this. Some paper-based learning will be provided.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Yours sincerely

Victoria Rayner
Acting Headteacher