



St Bridget's C of E Primary School

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'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
Luke 10:27

11th March 2020

Coronavirus update – infection control measures in school

I would like to take this opportunity to outline the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As per the advice from the government, the school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Placing posters up around the school regarding coronavirus infection control information.
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at **least** 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Ensuring each classroom has a supply of hand sanitiser or access to regular handwashing with soap and water.
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away and wash their hands.
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual.
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell and isolating any unwell people in a separate room.
- Advising people who have returned from category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to self-isolate for 14 days before they return to school.
- Advising people who have returned from category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days to stay at home if they develop symptoms – the full list of category 1 and category 2 countries can be found on the government website.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

Unless your child has tested positive for the coronavirus (and hasn't been exposed to anyone with the virus), they should attend school as usual (unless they are too unwell due to an unrelated illness), as per the current government advice.

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on [0151 625 7652](tel:01516257652) at the earliest opportunity.

We would like to reiterate that these are only preventative measures in place to anticipate any occurrences of coronavirus within the school.

Coronavirus update - planning ahead

Please be reassured that current advice remains for educational settings to function as normal.

However possible actions available to the government include closing schools as detailed below:

Action that would be considered could include population distancing strategies (such as school closures, encouraging greater home working, reducing the number of large scale gatherings) to slow the spread of the disease throughout the population, whilst ensuring the country's ability to continue to run as normally as possible. **The UK government's education department's planning assumptions include the possibility of having to close educational settings in order to reduce the spread of infection.**

Extract from 'Coronavirus: action plan A guide to what you can expect across the UK: The Delay phase - next steps'
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Should a forced school closure occur we wanted to share with you the steps that will be taken by school in relation to setting work.

- Children should be encouraged to read daily
- Mathematics activities will be set remotely by the class teacher
- Grammar activities will be set remotely through SPAG.com
- Open-ended research projects for each year group will be set via the school website

The nature of open-ended tasks, reading and online resources such as Mathematics allow the children who are unaffected by the outbreak to access areas of our curriculum practically and appropriately. We appreciate the severity of the outbreak, each family's own circumstances and government advice will influence the nature of any time away from school and it will be the parents and carers best judgements as to the amount of work the children access.

Any communications from the school during a forced closure will be shared on the school website and via email. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and understanding through these uncertain times. We will continue to update you with information as soon as we receive it.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Le Feuvre

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