



# Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg  
Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Dodd

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE 2

In light of the update yesterday the situation is continuously changing, subsequently school needs to change its approach to day to day life. As I said yesterday, **we will not be closing the school unless we are directed to do so by Government, however we may have to do so earlier due to staff shortages and keeping children safe.** We will, however, be making a few changes and postponing some events to assist with attempts to begin a process of social distancing. These changes are an attempt to minimise the interactions between groups of people across the school community.

It is important for us to recognise that the overwhelming majority of children are not at significant health risk from Covid-19, but they could carry the virus into settings or groups where people are at higher risk, such as the elderly.

School has taken the following actions to minimize social interaction and contact:

### ALTERED

- We have changed the lunchtime arrangements, we are still using the hall as there is more space but we have reduced the flow of children and are sanitizing the tables regularly.

### CANCELLED

- EYFS trip to see Dippy Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Whole school assemblies
- Visitors to school

### POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- Sacramental programme meeting – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March @St Thomas More RC Church Hall
- Meetings with external professionals
- Y4 times table meeting with parent Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Early Years parents Meetings Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March & Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Reconciliation service for Sacramental programme Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Y3/4 Easter Play
- KS1 SATs meeting with parents Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

If your child is absent for any reason, please can you ensure that you leave a message, or speak to the office, explaining clearly the reasons why. If your child develops a continuous cough OR a temperature of 37.8<sup>o</sup>C (100<sup>o</sup>F) or above, we would ask that you keep them off school for 14 days as a precautionary measure plus in these circumstances according to latest advice the household should self-isolate together.

**Although as a school we are required to follow guidelines from Department of Education and Public Health England, we also fully respect the wishes and decisions of our parents. Please inform the office in the case of any absences on the following number 0161 643 7132, any absences will be authorised.** Parents are not to worry about absent rates at this time, we will support any decision you make regarding your child's health and well-being and if that means you have to keep them off with their siblings then so be it, we are living in extraordinary times.

I apologise for any inconvenience that these actions will cause, but I am sure you understand that the school has a responsibility, as a key part of our community, to play its part in attempting to delay the spread of Covid-19. I feel the measures outlined above are manageable, proportionate and reasonable steps for us to take to help protect everyone. This situation is unprecedented, and as such it is likely that guidance will be updated again, and that I will need to write to you again to ensure you know what school is doing, and why. Please continue to encourage good hand hygiene in your children. It remains the most effective method to prevent the spread of the virus.

**We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ**

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## In the event of a full closure

Teachers have put together a list of resources or ideas, including online support for children to complete at home, which will be sent home in the event of a closure. They will also be put onto the website. We will continue to update the website and Twitter. If children want to share work with staff they can do so through Twitter. We will also provide teacher emails to share work.

We will continue to update you in this ever changing situation and thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Butterworth

Mrs K Kennedy & Ms L Williams

Headteacher

Co- Chair of Governors

<b>If you need to cough or sneeze</b>  <b>Catch it</b> with a tissue			 <b>Bin it</b>			 <b>Kill it</b> by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser		
<b>You should wash hands with soap &amp; water or hand sanitiser</b>  <b>After breaks &amp; sport activities</b>			 <b>Before cooking &amp; eating</b>			 <b>SCHOOL ETC.</b> <b>On arrival at any childcare or educational setting</b>		
 <b>After using the toilet</b>			 <b>Before leaving home</b>					

  

 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
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