



**St Mary's**

Catholic Primary School  
and Nursery

*Learning and living  
together through faith  
and education*

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## **CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe,  
Cheshire CW2 8AD

Telephone: 01270 685174

E: [admin@stmarysrc.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysrc.cheshire.sch.uk)

[www.stmaryscrewe.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscrewe.co.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs S M Fau-Goodwin

As you are aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus at the end of last week. I am writing to let you know what we are planning as a school, to help make sure our community remains safe and calm.

Governors and staff would like to reassure you that we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and Cheshire East.

### **What is the current situation?**

The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given. All school functions continue to run as normal including SMART and any after school enrichment clubs.

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:

- a new, continuous cough and/or
- a temperature

If your child is unwell, please report this as you would normally do by contacting the school and speaking to a member of the admin team or leaving a message on the answerphone **01270 685 174**.

We will provide as much notice as possible, if we are required to cancel any upcoming trips or visits, Presently, SATs and assessments remain scheduled to run on the same dates.

We will of course keep you up to date with any changes if the current situation changes.

### **What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff:**

- We will contact you immediately if your child is unwell
- Our hygiene and cleaning schedule is robust
- Hand-washing reminders are visible for both adults and children
- Where possible, and when the supply of stock allows, provide hand sanitiser
- Brief and remind all pupils about hygiene



### What we need you to do:

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email or telephone so we can contact you. An email address is also really useful.
- Ensure your child has their own supply of tissues with them every day.
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a concerning time and we should make sure children feel informed and supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Please come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to. We will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough. At this point, you will need to follow the advice from the government /NHS website **and inform us immediately if you or your child is a confirmed case.**
- In the event of a closure, we will use our school website to upload learning materials. Again, **please ensure you have downloaded the Spider App. By doing this, your child will have access to school spider (our website) from home.** Please do this now, in good time, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure that you and your child are well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point)

### What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if advised officially to or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Alert you to any impending closure, through the school website (spider app) the school Facebook site and by school text.
- Provide work for pupils during any closure period through the school website.
- Inform you re-opening in the same way, so correct contact details are vitally important.

Please bear in mind that this information is only being shared to help our school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

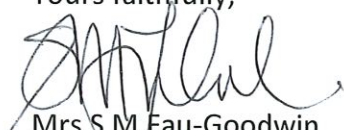
### Further information is available:

- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#)
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead

It is a tricky and unprecedented time for all; we would like to reassure you that we will follow official advice and guidance to minimise the impact on our school community. However, it is just as important that we keep each other safe and approach this issue in an informed, considered manner.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S M Fau-Goodwin  
Head Teacher

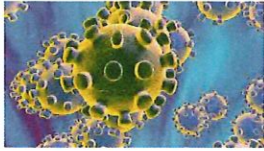




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## PARENT FACT SHEET

### WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS



The incubation period for this strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between 2 to 14 days. That means if a person is well 14 days after contact with someone with a confirmed case, they haven't been infected.

#### What are the symptoms?

They include:

- A new and continuous cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever

The virus can cause more severe symptoms in those with weakened immune systems. However, there's no evidence that children are more affected than other age groups.

#### How does it spread?

The virus is most likely to spread when someone has close contact (i.e. within 2 metres or less) with an infected person.

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, they produce droplets that contain the virus. These droplets are likely to be the most important means of transmission, as droplets can be directly transferred into the mouths or noses of people who have close contact.

Someone may become infected by touching a surface or object (e.g. a door knob) that's been contaminated with the droplets and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes.

There is currently no good evidence that people who don't have symptoms are infectious to others.

### PREVENTING THE SPREAD

#### Steps to take:

You are likely taking the steps below already, as they are the same general principles you use to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus.

You might still want to consider talking to your child and reminding them that everyone needs to wash their hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly:

- Before leaving home
- On arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before eating any food, including snacks
- Before leaving school



If soap and water are not available, they need to use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.

**Please remind your child to:**

- Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at home. If your child feels unwell, please use the NHS website as an initial guide. Please do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environments.

**Pupils with a new persistent cough and/or high temperature**

If your child has either of the above symptoms, they should stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms started.



If your child becomes unwell, use NHS 111 online immediately for an assessment (or 999 if they require emergency medical attention)

There is no need for your child to avoid normal activities or coming to school if they are well, unless they have had contact with a confirmed case.

Anyone who has had close contact with a confirmed case should contact NHS 111 for further advice.

**The government currently advises against all trips overseas with children under 18 'until further notice'.**

**If we have a suspected case in school**

If anyone has been in contact with a suspected case in our school, there are no restrictions or special control measures required while test results are pending.

We do not need to close the school or send pupils or staff home.

**However, if they have been in school, we will:**



Clean all surfaces that the suspected case has come into contact with, using disposable cloths and household detergents, including:

- All surfaces and objects which are visibly contaminated with body fluids
- All potentially contaminated high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles and telephones
- Keep waste from the suspected case, such as used tissues, in a double-wrapped and tied bin bag, which will be placed in a safe place and marked for storage (if the results are negative, this can then be put in the normal waste)

If a case is confirmed, our local health protection team will contact us to:

- Discuss the case
- Identify people who have been in contact with the infected individual
- Advise on any actions and precautions that should be taken
- Undertake a risk assessment of the school (this will support us in any decision as to whether our school will need to close, which we are being told at the moment will not be necessary in most cases )