

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 12: 17.03.20

Coronavirus and our school

Dear Parents and Carers,

There is new updated guidance as from yesterday evening on what to do if you have symptoms of coronavirus.

If anyone in your family has any symptoms – high temperature and/or a new continuous cough, then you should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got the symptoms. This is a **new measure** introduced today, Tuesday 17 March, to reduce the spread of the infection. If you develop symptoms during the 14 days, then you must stay at home for 7 days from the onset of symptoms. An example – you develop symptoms on day 10 of the 14 days. You stay at home for the next 7 so you will be in isolation for 17 days in total.

The education unions met with the Secretary of State for Education yesterday and their line is this about school closure: *The government argues that the social impact of total closure outweighs the health risks of keeping the central points of our social fabric open. There is also deep concern about the care of our most vulnerable children.*

They will continue to have talks and the situation could change. We are already planning for how best to set work for children should the school close. We will send out a memo about this later in the day.

Chris Chamier-Williams and I gathered the staff and teaching assistants together this morning to inform and reassure as we do not want them under undue pressure. We are not expecting them to manage huge classes. This would lead to their immune systems being compromised through exhaustion!

It was lovely to see so many smiles on the gate this morning. We are still running smoothly, and the school is very calm. We'll keep you updated, and the website is being updated daily too.

Best wishes,

Liz Burton