



Head Teacher  
MRS M. ASHLEY

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM

# St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus COVID 19 Update – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

On Monday evening, the Government changed their advice regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

### Updated Medical Advice

- **Stay at home** if you have either:
  - a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
  - a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly
- Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.
- You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.
- Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.

### How long to stay at home

- If you have symptoms, stay at home for 7 days
- If you live with other people, they should stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person got symptoms.
- If you live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term medical condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, please follow the government guidelines and if unsure go online to NHS 111.
- If you have to stay at home together, try to keep away from each other as much as possible.
- Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if
  - you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
  - your condition gets worse
  - your symptoms do not get better after 7 days
- 111 online help: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/>
- Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

### **Do:**

- wash your hands with soap and water often
- do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work

- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterward
- avoid close contact with people who have symptoms of coronavirus
- only travel on public transport if you need to
- work from home, if you can
- avoid social activities, such as going to pubs, restaurants, theatres and cinemas
- avoid events with large groups of people
- use phone, [online services](#), or apps to contact your GP surgery or other NHS services

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is also available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows. 0800 046 8687 Opening hours: 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Saturday and Sunday.

## School Closure Update

The current advice from Public Health England has not changed in this regard. No school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) case of coronavirus unless directed to do so by Public Health England or under the advice of their local Public Health protection team.

However, if, in consultation with Dr Hermans (Chair of Governors) we feel it is not safe to keep St Joseph's Catholic Primary School open due to severe staff shortages, we may need to implement a partial or full closure. Every reasonable step will be taken to avoid this but the safety and well-being of our children is always our first priority.

In order for us to get regular up-to-date information out to you, we are appealing for every family to give us an email address that you can be contacted on.

## Home Learning

Teachers have prepared homework packs for the children in isolation at home, or in the event of a school closure. These were sent home on Friday. **In the event of a school closure please keep visiting our website regularly, we will be updating it with information and the teachers will be adding homework or appropriate websites for your children to access, especially if the school is closed for a prolonged period.**

<https://www.stjosb7.bham.sch.uk> – click on our classes and then click on the year groups your children are in.

## We pray

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Amen

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during these worrying times.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M. Ashley  
Headteacher