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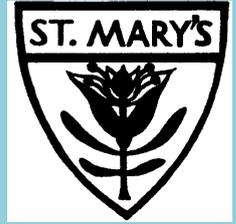


Archdiocese of Birmingham

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*God is at the centre of our lives and as a school community we try to grow in
love and care by following the example of Jesus*



Monday 9th March 2020

Dear Parents,

Re:- Corona virus/ Covid 19

I am sure that- like me- you are all following the outbreak of novel coronavirus in the news. At St. Mary's we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously. Currently there is no cause for concern at St Mary's, but you will be kept informed about any developments and can rest assured that we're keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus in line with guidance from Public Health England.

The current advice to prevent the spread of infection includes:-

Washing your hands often - with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (time for two Hail Mary's as Father Peter pointed out!)

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Cover any cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue in a bin

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home- as are we at school!

If you're worried about your child's or your own symptoms, please call NHS 111 - don't go directly to either the doctor's or hospital.

If you or your children have returned from:-

Wuhan city and Hubei province in China, Iran, Daegu or Cheongdo in South Korea or any Italian town under containment measures

You should:-

Contact NHS 111 for advice and self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country or area (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>)

If you become unwell you should call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention) .

If you or your children have returned from any of the following countries:-

Cambodia , China (other than Wuhan city or Hubei province), Hong Kong, Italy: north (see the map here) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, South Korea (other than Daegu or Cheongdo), Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

As long as you and your children are well you don't need to avoid contact with other people and other family members don't need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities

If you do become unwell (see below for a list of symptoms): Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would with other flu viruses (see the home isolation advice sheet for help with this)

Call NHS 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention)

Symptoms to look out for include:-

Cough

Difficulty in breathing

Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

If you have these symptoms please avoid contact with others and stay at home. You should not go to work, travel while sick or attend school.

At St Mary's we will continue to monitor the safety and well-being of our students regarding future trips and activities and will keep in close contact with Parents / Carers as any matters arise. Hopefully more information and advice will become available following today's COBRA meeting.

Best wishes

Mr J Shingler

Headteacher

