



Monday, March 16, 2020

Dear Parents

Attendance or Self-Isolation

Following changes announced by the Government on their approach to managing the Covid-19 outbreak and the reduction in testing for the people presenting symptoms, we wish to write to you to clarify what this means for you and the school.

The NHS advice is as [follows](#):

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

- Stay at home for 7 days 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.
- Read our [advice about staying at home](#).

School staff cannot give you any further advice on this matter as we do not have the knowledge or the authority to do so.

However, your child is expected to attend school if they are not presenting any symptoms. If they do not attend school they will receive an unauthorised absence.

The school will keep abreast of any changes in guidance and will keep you informed. We are aware that this is a very worrying time for parents and we wish to reassure you that we are doing all we can to maintain a safe environment for the children and staff. During this period we have increased levels of calls first thing in the morning and would ask that you refer to the above guidance first, before calling us with your decision to self-isolate. **You will need to make this decision yourself based on the guidance detailed above as school staff are not able to make the decision for you.** Please have patience if we take a little longer to respond.

The latest information regarding school settings can be found [here](#).

School Trips

Every trip is risk assessed and these risk assessments are being reviewed right up until we leave school. Risk Assessments take into consideration journey time, crowds, mode of transport and decisions made by the venues themselves. This could mean that trips are postponed or cancelled at the last minute if we feel that circumstances have changed to the point of making it unsafe for the children and staff to attend. If a parent wishes their child not to attend a trip they are asked to call the school and the child will be placed in the parallel class in school or with the year below or above if it is a whole year trip. For the reasons given above, as of this afternoon the following trips have been cancelled;

Friday 20 th March	Natural History Museum
Thursday 26 th March	School Council to City Hall
Friday 27 th March	Lambeth Music Festival

Way of the Cross, Easter Prayer Services and whole school assemblies

Having evaluated the situation we have sadly decided to cancel the Way of The Cross and Easter Prayer Service performances this year. The reasons for this are as follows;

- Practice involves several year groups practising together over an extended time over several days.
- Performances involve a large number of parents, even if broken down over several days.
- If school closures are called the work and practice will have wasted valuable teaching and learning time which will be missed during closure.
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To ensure that the children do not lose out on their understanding of the Lenten journey and Easter; we will be in touch with the Fr Matthew and Fr Gerard to work with classes on observing the Stations of the Cross in much smaller class groups.

We will also not hold whole school assemblies going forward but will have assemblies with smaller numbers of children.

Staff

Our staff have been working very hard to teach the children on the importance of good hygiene and addressing their concerns on a day to day basis, whilst preparing work for children to take home or access remotely if school closures are called. Our office staff are collating information that may be useful for health authorities whilst still maintaining positive and friendly communication with our families; as well as keeping a calm and positive atmosphere across the school for the children.

Whilst we are aware that the current situation may raise levels of anxiety, we would like to remind parents that we are not able to make decisions on your behalf and would ask for your patience and understanding when communicating with staff who are having to deal with changing government advice. We have a responsibility to our staff to look after their health and wellbeing too and we ask that parents do not take out their frustrations on staff because of delays in responding or because we are unable to give the answers they wish to hear.

Our staff are a very important part of our school community and many also have their children at Corpus Christi or other local schools which means they are subject to the same worries and concerns as you are. We ask that we all try to be kind to each other and as such help model the positive behaviour for children in these trying and unprecedented times.

We would like to reassure you all that we have the children's best interests at the centre of every decision that we make and that we are constantly monitoring the situation.

Yours sincerely

Jean Connery
Co-Headteacher

Robert Coyle
Co-Headteacher