



Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School

Hart Lane, Hartlepool, TS26 8NL

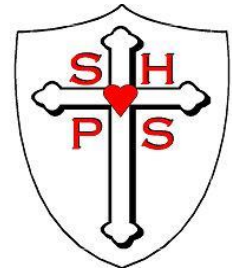
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Headteacher: Mrs A. Howell



10th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Coronavirus concerns

You are likely aware of the outbreak of novel coronavirus or COVID-19 and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At Sacred Heart, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so as a precautionary measure we would like to share with you the current NHS advice and guidance from Public Health England on steps you should be taking.

However, this advice is being updated frequently and updates can be found using the following links to ensure you access the most up to date advice and guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

There is currently no cause for concern at our school, but we will keep you informed about any developments and ensure we are keeping the school clean to prevent the spread of any virus.

Classrooms will have tissues available for children, but we are happy for you to provide your own if you so wish. Children will be asked to wash their hands more frequently across the school day. The soap in school has not changed and we have liquid and bars of soap for the children to use.

Prevent the spread of infection

Make sure you and your children follow these general principles to prevent spreading any respiratory virus:

- Wash your hands more frequently – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitiser if soap and water aren't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, sleeve or elbow when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

Look out for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees C or higher)

The risk is still relatively low for individuals but we wanted to share this information with you so that we can remain vigilant.

Should there be further guidance for schools we will of course communicate these as soon as possible.

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Palmer