



# Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Dodd

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

It is with sadness that I am writing to inform you that we have had information of a confirmed case of coronavirus with a family member of someone from within school, the other family members are self-isolating. I am aware of the impact of news of this nature and it is not our intention to cause undue alarm.

Please note we have followed the advice from Public Health England (PHE), the governors and Local Authority (LA) have been informed and at this stage the authorities advise that school does not have a deep clean, but that it remains open.

We continue to clean thoroughly and regularly as per the advice from Public Health England (PHE). I have copied the information we are following below, this has been taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. We will continue to update you in this ever-changing situation and thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Butterworth

Mrs K Kennedy & Ms L Williams

Headteacher

Co-Chair of Governors

### **PHE Advice**

#### ***3. Preventing spread of infection***

*There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.*

*There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:*

- *washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport*
- *covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#)*
- *people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting*
- *pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:*
  - *before leaving home*
  - *on arrival at school*
  - *after using the toilet*
  - *after breaks and sporting activities*
  - *before food preparation*
  - *before eating any food, including snacks*
  - *before leaving school*
- *use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available*
- *avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands*
- *avoid close contact with people who are unwell*
- *clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces*
- *if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment*

**We Love, We Learn, We Live with Christ**

Evesham Road, Alkington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.

Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: [Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk)





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- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

PHE has a [suite of materials](#) that contains public health advice about how you can help stop the spread of viruses, like those that cause COVID-19, by practicing good respiratory and hand hygiene. To access, download and share this information you will need to register for an account which only takes a couple of minutes.

Face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

## 7. What to do if pupils, students or staff in your institution are contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 who was symptomatic while attending your childcare or educational setting?

The definition of a contact includes:

- any pupil, student or staff member in close face-to-face or touching contact including those undertaking small group work (within 2 metres of the case for more than 15 minutes)
- talking with or being coughed on for any length of time while the individual is symptomatic
- anyone who has cleaned up any bodily fluids of the individual
- close friendship groups
- any pupil, student or staff member living in the same household as a confirmed case, or equivalent setting such as boarding school dormitory or other student accommodation

Contacts are not considered cases and if they are well, they are very unlikely to have spread the infection to others, however:

- they will be asked to self-isolate at home, or within their boarding school dormitory room, for 14 days from the last time they had contact with the confirmed case and follow the [home isolation advice sheet](#)
- they will be actively followed up by the Health Protection Team
- if they develop any symptoms within their 14-day observation period they should call NHS 111 for assessment
- if they become unwell with cough, fever or shortness of breath they will be tested for COVID-19
- if they require emergency medical attention, call 999 and tell the call handler or ambulance control that the person has a history of potential contact with COVID-19
- if they are unwell at any time within their 14-day observation period and they test positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated for the infection

Family and friends who have not had close contact (as listed above) with the original confirmed case do not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities such as attending childcare or educational settings or work, unless they become unwell. If they become unwell, they should call NHS 111 and explain their symptoms and discuss any known contact with the case to consider if they need further assessment.

If a confirmed case occurs in an educational setting the local Health Protection Team will provide you with advice and will work with the headteacher, principal and or management team of that setting. Outside those that are defined as close contacts, the rest of the school does not need to take any precautions or make any changes to their own activities attending educational establishments or work as usual, unless they become unwell. If they become unwell they will be assessed as a suspected case depending on their symptoms. This advice applies to teaching staff and children in the rest of the class who are not in a close friendship group or children undertaking small group work. The decision as to whether pupils, students and staff fall into this contact group or the closer contact group will be made between the Health Protection Team, the educational setting and (if they are old enough) the student.

Advice should be given as follows:

- if they become unwell with cough, fever or shortness of breath they will be asked to self-isolate and should seek medical advice from NHS 111
- if they are unwell at any time within the 14 days of contact and they are tested and are positive for COVID-19 they will become a confirmed case and will be treated as such.

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