

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As promised, I am continuing to update you as information comes into our school from the DFE/local authority and the further steps we have taken, in school, to protect our school family and community.

Current situation

- Our school remains open as per current official guidance we've been given.
- All our daily school clubs are running as normal but the Olympics event, held at St Mary's High school for Year 4 pupils, has been cancelled. Any other events, planned outside of school, will be monitored daily and obviously you always have to sign for permission for us to take your child out of school to organised events.
- We have decided **not to take** our Year 5 children to Blackpool Winter Gardens for the Changing Horizons event on Thursday.
- Tuesday swimming lessons, for our Year 4 children, **are still going ahead** until we are advised not to.
- Pupils should attend school unless they feel unwell– if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**: A new, continuous cough and/or a temperature - If your child is unwell, report this to our school office in the usual way.
- We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- If a child is taken ill or has any of the above symptoms in school, we will obviously contact parents and take advice from Public Health to protect our pupils and staff.
- We continue to undertake extra cleaning in school which includes steam cleaning where necessary. Children/staff are continually encouraged to wash their hands before we go for lunch, after using the toilet and after PE lessons. We had planned in advance for the extra resources that we would need in school.
- We will be asking all visitors coming into school to wash their hands and obviously, we will not allow any visitors into school if they have any of the discussed symptoms.
- All children have had age-appropriate information about the Coronavirus within their individual classrooms.
- We have already put useful websites and learning platforms on our school websites, especially for our Year 6 and Year 2 children who are due to take the SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests).

What we need you to do

On Friday, we sent out a test-text to all parents/carers and a pink information slip with all children so we can ensure that we have the correct contact phone details for all our children. Please inform the school office **as soon as possible** if your contact details have changed.

Please take **travel advice** if you are thinking of taking your child out of school on holiday especially as our Easter break is soon upon us. We will follow Public Health advice in allowing children back into school if they have travelled to and returned from restricted destinations.

Talk to your children about the Coronavirus. We know it may be an unsettling time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.

Come and collect your child straight away if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough).

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Text parents and put information on our school website.
- We will also inform parents when the school reopens using the same methods.
- We will continue to update our school website with any learning support necessary. Children already have their own login/password details for many learning platforms we have signed up to or recommended to you. Continue to read with your child daily; we know our parents have a wealth of books at home to support their children.

If you have any questions

Please contact the school office by telephone or email admin@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

Use the [NHS website](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of Coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111.

Call the Department for Education's Coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687 if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.

Follow the government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

I know this is a very worrying time for our school community. It's important that we keep each other safe and also support each other. God's blessings to us all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Alexis Satterthwaite
Head Teacher