



St. Monica's Catholic Primary School

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18th March 2020

Dear Parents and Families

(a) Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (page 1)

(b) What will happen if the school closes? (pages 2 and 3)

(a) Coronavirus Update

The current advice from the Government is that –

(1) children should stay at home if they are unwell with **a new, continuous cough or a high temperature (above 37.8C)** to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education or work as normal.

(2) If children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home. If one child is sent home, we will also send home any brothers and sisters.

If you are keeping your child off school, please phone the school office on 01908 606966 to let them know and they will let the teacher know.

How long to stay at home if you have symptoms

Anybody with symptoms should stay at home for at least 7 days.

If you live with other people, they should stay at home for at least 14 days to avoid spreading the infection outside the home.

After 14 days, anyone who does not have symptoms can return to their normal routine e.g. school, work.

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency, dial 999.

(b) What will happen if the school closes?

Will schools close?

Current advice remains in place: no school should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

I believe that schools will close at some point as either we will be advised to do so by the Government or there will be not enough staff without symptoms to keep each school open. I do not know when.

What will happen about school work if the school closes?

Teachers will email work for your child to you. This will be done using the primary contact email we have for your family.

We have written and/or spoken to everybody for whom we do not have such an email to ensure we have one for you. Thanks to those of you who have replied - we have over 90% of your emails.

We will email school work which is suitable for your child for English and Maths and at least one other subject for each school day. This may be different for the very youngest children in YR and YN. You should receive work for each day but it may be emailed to you for more than one day at a time i.e. you may not receive an email each day. You will not receive work to be done through any holidays which arise while we are closed.

We do not expect the work to be handed back in and will provide answers to questions set where we can.

We understand that children will have varying levels of need, IT and support so we only ask that children do what they can. We will try to make the work as accessible as it can be.

Such a system will not be perfect or as good as being at school but we believe this is the best way to try to manage this very difficult and unusual situation.

Your children will be able to access Purple Mash, TT RockStars in the normal way and children will have access to Accelerated Reader tests at home. If you do not have your child's logon for any of these, please contact the class teacher as soon as possible.

We are also preparing a list of online resources which we will mail to you and will be available on our website.

Contacting us if the school is closed.

The office staff will not be in school if we close.

If you need to contact the school while it is closed, please email your child's teacher – you will have their email as they will be emailing work to you.

If you need to contact the school office staff, me or Miss Shanahan, please email stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

I will be monitoring that email.

We are looking to divert our 01908 606966 number so we can get messages but request that all communication takes place through emailing the class teacher or through stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

Need help?

This letter contains a lot of information.

If you need any help from me looking together at the information, accessing the internet or for any other reason, please contact me.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Robert O'Malley

Headteacher