



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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*Headteacher:* Mr. R. Curry

*Deputy Headteacher:* Mr. D. Abrahams

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Government advice in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic changes very quickly at the moment. As you may have seen on the news yesterday, if a child or a parent is self-isolating due to coronavirus-like symptoms (persistent new cough OR high temperature) **the isolation period for the WHOLE HOUSEHOLD (not just the individual displaying the symptoms) is now 14 DAYS from the onset of symptoms.**

The school register has been amended for children who were off yesterday with **these symptoms** and they will not be allowed back in school for 14 days from the onset of their symptoms. **If your child was off yesterday or today with these symptoms and has a sibling in school, who may not be displaying symptoms, they will not be permitted in school for the same period. This also applies if a parent or any other person living in the household is displaying the symptoms.**

The same extension to 14 days applies for any **staff members** in school who are either currently off with the symptoms or who have a household member who is self-isolating.

**As per government guidelines, this is not negotiable, even if symptoms have improved over the course of the day or week.** I appreciate that this will present many challenges for families and for the school, but it is vital that we all follow the current Government advice carefully.

We currently have a small number of children, staff and parents who are staying at home following the current guidelines. We have no diagnosed cases of Coronavirus that we are aware of and the people self-isolating are doing so as a precautionary measure.

If senior leaders at the school, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, feel it is not safe to keep the school open due to staff shortages, we may need to implement a partial or full closure. In this case, parents and carers will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity by email, text, the website and our social media platforms.

Links to appropriate websites for your children to make use of are available on the school website class pages, along with some examples of non-screen based activities. We are in the process of preparing further resources for you to use in the event of a school closure.

If you are still unclear whether your child should be in school please contact the school office each morning before leaving or contact the NHS helpline on 111.

Thank you for your customary cooperation. These are challenging times for us all and we thank you for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

P.P. 

Richard Curry