



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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*Headteacher:* Mr. R. Curry  
*Deputy Headteacher:* Mr. D. Abrahams

4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Re: Coronavirus Guidance**

Like all schools in Hertfordshire, we are receiving daily updates from the Health Authorities and the Department of Education regarding the Coronavirus. I would like to reassure all parents and carers that we are following this guidance, which currently includes a clear message that schools should not close.

I understand that naturally, all parents and carers will be concerned, especially with the media coverage regarding the spread of the virus and the news of confirmed cases in Hertfordshire. We have been informed that of these cases, most appear mild, with patients experiencing flu-like symptoms.

In school, we have emphasised the importance of children washing their hands throughout the school day. We have also shown children a detailed video in a special assembly, which was produced by Public Health England, on how to wash your hands thoroughly and how to limit the spread of germs through the government's 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' campaign. I have attached copies of these posters for your reference at home should you find this useful. These messages are being promoted by all class teachers and posters are displayed around the school.

As a school, we are ensuring that surfaces, handles, light switches etc. are being cleaned more regularly and computer keyboards are being wiped before use, at the beginning of every lesson. We have also turned the water fountains off and have encouraged children to bring in their own water bottles for the time being to stop the further spread of any germs. If your child is unable to bring in a water bottle, please be assured that we will provide extra water in classrooms and at lunchtime for them.

Alongside these measures, the key message that we are sharing with children is '**to stay calm and maintain good hand hygiene**' in order that we all work together to keep our school community safe'.

This week a new helpline has been launched to answer questions about the virus related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

Telephone: 0800 046 8687  
Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)  
Opening Hours: 8am – 6pm (Monday – Friday)

The Department for Education have recently produced guidance that can be shared with parents and carers. Please click on the following link to access this - '[COVID-19: Guidance for educational settings](#)'.

We have been advised that we will be informed by Public Health England should a case of the virus be confirmed that directly affects our school.

Please help us in sharing simple and effective hand hygiene messages at home.

We appreciate your continued support.

Kind regards,

Richard Curry