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Dear Parents/Guardians

16th March 2020

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing situation regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19. The situation is constantly changing at a rate we have never seen before.

What we must do is follow professional advice, especially from the Department of Education, with specific regards to managing education settings during this time. As announced by government there will NOT be a blanket closure of school at the moment. Currently advice is not to close schools unless advised by Public Health.

Advice and guidance from school:

At the moment, school is as normal as it can be, which is important for the children. We are of course working hard to ensure we are following advice as to how to limit the spread of this virus. The following measures have already been put into place:

- Handwashing demonstrations and practice with children washing their hands at key times throughout the day e.g. start of day, after the toilet, before eating, after break times and lunchtimes. The children would also benefit from washing their hands when they come home from school.
- Staggered year group break times and lunchtimes which will support social distancing measures.

Delay measures:

We are working hard, behind the scenes, to prepare work and systems for the children if we have to close. I would hope this does not happen as I know the difficulties parents would face.

If you have concerns about the health of your child this is the current advice:

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)

A new, continuous cough



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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.

Together with other schools in Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust we are putting in place today social distancing measures. This means that the following events will be cancelled:

- Educational Visits
- Assemblies
- Parental engagement sessions
- Parents appointments (replaced by a telephone call)
- Sports events
- Parish events

These steps have been taken in the best interest of the children and staff in school. I can only apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause, but I am sure you will understand our need for caution at this time.

We will use our website, text messaging service and Twitter account to keep you updated should there be any changes to the guidance we receive.

Our priority of course is the well-being and health and safety of our children and the school community. If you have any concerns you know you can simply contact the school to discuss them.

Thank you for your support at this unprecedented time.

Mrs M Brown (Head teacher) & Mr P Healy (Chair of Governors)