

Saint Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

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Head Teacher: Mr S Geaves



ST PAULINUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 17th March 2020

COVID-19 Update Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you this morning to further update you on the School's response to the Coronavirus update.

At the moment, schools are being advised to stay open and children should come to school as normal.

However Government advice has now updated the position regarding self-isolation of families. Yesterday the Prime Minister said:

'Last week we asked everyone to stay at home if you had one of two key symptoms: a high temperature or a new and continuous cough. Today, we need to go further, because according to SAGE [the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies] it looks as though we're now approaching the fast growth part of the upward curve. And without drastic action, cases could double every 5 or 6 days. So, first, we need to ask you to ensure that if you or anyone in your household has one of those two symptoms, then you should stay at home for **fourteen days**. That means that if possible you should not go out even to buy food or essentials, other than for exercise, and in that case at a safe distance from others. If necessary, you should ask for help from others for your daily necessities. And if that is not possible, then you should do what you can to limit your social contact when you leave the house to get supplies.'

Therefore the advice is that families have a social responsibility to isolate together if anyone is displaying one of the symptoms: a high temperature or a new persistent cough. This isolation period has been extended to 14 days and we all have a moral duty to follow these guidelines.

If you need to keep your child off school we **MUST** be contacted. We need to establish whether or not a child is ill or whether or not the child/family is self-isolating for 14 days. This is a safeguarding responsibility of the school and one we take seriously.

Yesterday we had to send children home from school if they displayed any symptoms and we also had to send children home who were not well enough to be in school. Whilst I am acutely aware of the huge inconveniences that this causes I will be assuming your total support with this matter. We will also report any reported cases of COVID-19 to the community if we are told which to my knowledge is currently zero.

The guidance also made it clear that some people would now have to social distance themselves for 12 weeks. Please check on the elderly as we are really concerned with their wellbeing at this time. This new guidance also means that Mrs Campbell will be starting her maternity leave earlier than planned and her last day will be tomorrow. I am sure that you will want to join me in wishing her well as baby Campbell number 2 arrives shortly.

Yesterday I outlined the decisions made on various upcoming events and I have been overwhelmed with the supportive messages we have received concerning these. Some parents have asked how far in advance school trips have been cancelled and the response to that is at this moment in time we do not really know.

Teaching staff are also planning activities that children could complete at home if schools do close for a sustained period of time.

In this period of uncertainty for us all if you have any worries or concerns please get in touch with the school. We will also use the usual forms of communication to keep you informed of any changes from the above.

Please keep safe, think of those in the medical services and thank you for your support of the school.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Geaves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S'.

Mr Geaves

Head Teacher