

Saint Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust

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ST PAULINUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monday 16th March 2020

COVID-19 Information Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you this morning to update you on the school's position and response to Coronavirus in these unprecedented times. As part of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust we continue to follow the very latest Governments and Public Health England guidance regarding school opening.

However, before we share the latest guidance and school plans I would like to thank all families for their support over the past few days. To reassure you all we are constantly reviewing the situation as it so fluid and changes daily. What has become particularly evident to me over the weekend is the social responsibility we all have to do the right thing for everyone in these difficult times.

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

The Department for Education (13th March) has advised the following exceptions, where you child should stay at home (Self isolate) for 7 days:

- A child is returning from Italy after 9th March (regardless of whether they have any symptoms)
- A family member has been CONFIRMED with coronavirus; but your child is not showing symptoms
- A family member has more severe, or prolonged coronavirus symptoms and is waiting to be tested
- If your child has been in contact with anyone with CONFIRMED coronavirus for more than 15 minutes.

If a family member has mild COVID-19 symptoms, and is self-isolating but NOT being tested, the DfE advised that it is fine for your child to come to school as normal.

The latest NHS/Government guidance on whether a child needs to stay at home, and what you should do, if they have coronavirus symptoms:

- All children with coronavirus symptoms of a new, persistent cough or a high temperature (37.8 or above), should stay at home (self-isolate) for 7 days.
- NHS advice for staying at home.

You do not need to call NHS 111, unless:

- Their condition gets worse
- Their symptoms persist for more than 7 days

Parents will be notified immediately should we have any confirmed cases of infection within the academy but until this point, we would encourage you to remain calm and continue to follow the Government's advice on prevention. Our contingency plans are in place, to ensure that we are prepared for all possible scenarios.

The Trust has been in regular contact supporting us with a range of advice and measures. Last night, the Trust has decided that certain extra measures of precaution need to be taken by all our schools in an effort to support the pupils and staff at all our schools. Once again these decisions are somewhat unprecedented but hopefully you will understand have not been taken lightly and are in response to the developing situation globally.

Therefore from today the following planned events will have to be cancelled or postponed:

- Parents Evenings on Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April **Postponed**
- Lent Stay and Pray Sessions- **All cancelled**
- PTFA Easter Fair **Cancelled**
- Y1 Trip to Captain Cook Museum- **Cancelled**
- All future school sporting competitions/festivals – **Postponed**
- All future School Trips- **Cancelled until advice changes from Trust**
- Whole School Assemblies- **Cancelled**
- 40th Anniversary Black Tie Ball Saturday 2nd May- **Postponed**
- Mothers and Toddlers- **Cancelled until further notice**

The Government is holding a Cobra Committee meeting today and we will once again respond to any guidance changes that come out of this. As a school we are tweaking one or two procedures at Lunchtime to make sure extra precautions are being adhered to. We are also making sure that children wash their hands as regularly as possible.

At the moment all after school clubs will continue as will our very own Breakfast and After School Club.

If the school does need to close in the future we are already planning elements of home learning that can be shared with you. This is very much an ongoing body of work and hopefully will satisfy children of all ages and support parents with any home learning.

As a school we are also thinking of ways we can help the vulnerable at this testing time. Therefore we will be supporting the Guisborough Bridge Project's collection programme. A collection box will be placed at the front of the school if anyone can spare any long life food items that we can then donate. We are also thinking about alternative arrangements for the long established egg day celebration which of course will have to look very different this year.

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 and thank you for your support of the school.



Mr Geaves

Head Teacher