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Head Teacher

Mrs T Davis

16th March 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CORONA VIRUS REPOSE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Parents/Carers,

In preparation for a potential forced closure due to Corona Virus, should this be announced by the government, I am writing to explain how we will support your child's continued education.

Learning activities will be provided via the school website **on a daily basis**. These will be labelled with the date and grouping – your child will know which group they are in. You can find these at: <https://www.stanthonyscatholicsschool.co.uk/> in the OUR LEARNING tab, HOME LEARNING. Here you will find folders relevant to your child's class. Look at the work here in combination with the message via MarvellousMe in order to know which work is allocated for your child.

In addition to this, your child has access to a number of on-line learning platforms. These include PURPLE MASH (Year 1-6), Timestable Rockstars (Y1-6) and SPAG.com (Y6 only). Your child's teacher will send you messages via MarvellousMe to direct you to specific activities. All children should also have reading books. We will be sending home additional books for them to access in the event of closure. For children who are still on the reading scheme, re-reading books is an expectation anyways as this helps to improve their fluency. Pupils in Kindle Club also have books allocated to them to support further reading.

There are a number of companies who also provide free on-learning activities. We have chosen not to sign up to any of these as (i) would need to seek your permission regarding GDPR, but (ii) we are not able to assess the quality of such resources at such short notice. However, it is obviously up to you if you wish to supplement your child's learning with these. I would ask, however, that work set by the class teacher remains the priority.

In order to be prepared yourselves, I suggest that you immediately consider printing options. If you wish to print resources, make sure that you are stocked with ink. However, there is no need to do so. Many of the activities can be done on screen, or recorded on paper; we will be providing your child with an exercise book to record their learning. You, another family member or older sibling, will need to plan to work with your child and give them feedback regarding their learning.



Also, I suggest that you access the school website before this is required, so that you can see the links and be able to ask any questions whilst we are contactable. Links should be available from tomorrow.

Please also plan time to pray with your child. Ask your child when they usually do this. We will also provide the daily prayers via the website. Please also keep those with Corona Virus and those working to support them in your prayers at this time.

Current actions taken to minimise risk of contact with the virus:

1. Hand washing practice with the children has increased significantly. Children wash their hands when arriving at school, following break, lunch and PE and before they eat. Provision is made across all classrooms in order to accommodate this additional routine. Parents have been asked to ensure hand washing takes place immediately before and after school.
2. Classes will refrain from attending church from this point forward and for the immediate future, due to the contact with the wider public. The Lenten Mass is scheduled to take place without the public presence. Religious preparation for Easter and Holy Communion will continue through school practices and Father will be invited into school to support us with these.
3. Sadly, we have had to rearrange the date for the First Holy Communion service. This has currently been rescheduled for Saturday 4th July at 11am.
4. Adults will not be invited to class assemblies for the immediate future - these will continue for children in key stages. Again this is to reduce contact with the general public and mass gatherings. Children will still receive awards, etc. Shaking pupils hands will be removed at present. Children will not visit the community room for their celebration following assembly, again for the immediate future.
5. Swimming lessons are to be suspended in the immediate future. This is in order to avoid unnecessary contact with the general public, rather than a concern about hygiene standards within the swimming facilities.
6. In the event of a forced closure, external lettings including ANTS Out of Hours Club will not be available on site. ANTS will make contact with their customers in order to confirm their own plans.

There has been a suggestion through the press that schools would need to make *childcare* provision for front-line staff from the NHS and Police who are defined as 'key-workers'. If this is relevant to yourself, please make direct contact with me via the school email address **before the end of the school day on Tuesday 17th March** so that planning requirements can be considered. This is only relevant if you would not have a partner who was in a position to provide childcare.

What to do if my child is unwell or I am unwell?

The guidance regarding managing health concerns is changing rapidly. The current guidance is:

- Staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise



“Let your words teach and your actions speak.”

they should attend education or work as normal. They must not go to a GP surgery and there is no need to inform 111 in this circumstance.

- Other health concerns should be treated as you usually would in relation to school attendance.

What does self-isolation mean?

DO:

- try to keep at least 2 metres (3 steps) from other people in your home, particularly older people or those with long-term health conditions
- ask friends and family and delivery services to deliver things like food shopping and medicines – but avoid contact with them
- sleep alone if possible
- regularly wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- try to stay away from older people and those with long-term health conditions
- drink plenty of water and take everyday painkillers, such as paracetamol to help with your symptoms

DON'T:

- have visitors
- leave the house for a walk, to go to the shops or to a school, for example.

As I said in my previous letter, these are unprecedented times. I will continue to keep you apprised of any changes that we have to make. **Until then, we will be operating as near to normal as possible.** I hope that we can all work together effectively in order to minimise the impact on your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs T Davis
(Head Teacher)



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