

St Modwen's Catholic Primary School – Briefing Parents/carers – CORONAVIRUS (16.3.2020)

Dear Parents/carers

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We would just like to remind everyone of the latest Government Guidelines and advice to schools and to ensure that you are all aware of how we are managing the threat of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in school. As you are aware there is currently no dictate from Government over the closure of schools in England and as a school we are working to continue to remain open. As coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) continues to spread, we would like to explain how we are responding to the global health crisis.

As you can imagine there are elements of our day to day school offer which are currently being affected/or where we have put in additional control measures to protect our children and those likely to be most at risk. Currently we have made the following decisions:

- Assemblies and Mass – have been cancelled with immediate effect
- Swimming Lessons –Swimming Lessons on Mondays are cancelled with immediate effect
- Violin Lessons – all violin lessons in school are cancelled with immediate effect, please can parents send in their child's violin into school so it can be deep-cleaned and held in school
- School Trips –all planned trips for Spring Term 2 have been cancelled with immediate effect, parents who have booked any trips for their children via ParentMail have been refunded.
- Lettings –to temporarily postpone all lettings to external services
- Food-Bank items – School currently has a decent amount of stock within its Food Bank. If you require any food items please contact the office before Friday 20th March 2020 as after that we will be transferring what stock we have left to the Local Food Bank and signposting parents.

School will be continue to monitor the above decisions and its control measures to continue to protect our children and those likely to be most at risk and will advise further if the current situation changes and further measures need to be put in place.

We would also like to take this opportunity in reminding you as parents how you can also support us in reducing the spread of infection.

What you can do to reduce infections spreading

You should wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water. In particular, you should wash your hands after going to the toilet, before eating or handling food, and when you get to work/get home. In addition, please ensure that you:

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- put any used tissues in the bin straightaway and wash your hands immediately after handling used tissues;
- try to avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth if you have not washed your hands recently; and
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

What to do if you/your child fall ill

If you develop:

- a fever, particularly a high temperature (i.e. a temperature of 37.8 degrees or over); and/or
- a continuous cough,
- you must self-isolate for seven days. Please see stay at home advice from NHS as detailed below- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

Stay at home advice - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Tips for staying at home - It's important to stay at home to stop coronavirus spreading.

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 and ibuprofen, to help with your symptoms

Don't

- do not have visitors (ask people to leave deliveries outside)
- do not leave the house, for example to go for a walk, to school or public places

Urgent advice: Use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service if:

- you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home
- your condition gets worse
- your symptoms do not get better after 7 days

[Use the 111 coronavirus service](#)

Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.

Travel

If you have been to a restricted area recently, or plan to travel to a restricted area outside work, for example on a holiday or for family reasons, you should inform the Headteacher immediately.

Further communications from us

This is a rapidly changing situation and we will provide you with regular updates as and when required.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Acting Headteacher

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