

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Ms Nicola Kane LLB.PgDip, PgCert.

Tel: 01923 676022 Fax: 01923 893497

Email: admin@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk

www.stcatherinescatholicprimaryschool.co.uk

Horseshoe Lane
Garston
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD25 7HP

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Daily Coronavirus Update One

Given that this is such a continually evolving situation, I will be providing daily updates throughout this crisis and informing you as to what the school is doing in line with Government and Trust advice. At the moment, the school remains open under the guidance of DfE and Public Health England.

We have had many enquiries from concerned parents about sending children to school at this time. We have also had many children absent with sickness or in self-isolation. I would like to reiterate the Government guidance that if your child has flu-like symptoms, a new persistent cough, or temperature of 37.8 degrees or above, they must remain at home for 7 days.

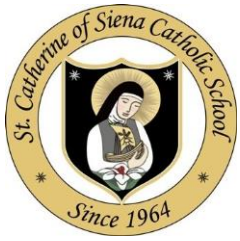
If circumstances arise such that you feel that that your child needs to be quarantined, please email:

medical@st-catherine.herts.sch.uk to let us know.

It is very important that you use this email (not just the school mobile) so that we can monitor potential cases and are aware of how long children are expected to remain absent – this is an important safeguarding measure. Furthermore, the email is accessible by me 24 hours a day, whereas the school mobile remains on-site and is only monitored during office hours.

Given the unprecedented nature of the situation and fears over the most vulnerable in society (including the over 70s and those with underlying health conditions), I understand that many believe that current Government guidelines do not go far enough. As a school, we must operate within the guidelines. However, the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care is our primary concern. As such, if either your child, or a close family member has an underlying health condition and you feel that it is in their best interests to self-isolate, I will support this decision. I have discussed this with the Governing Body and will authorise any such absences. As a Headteacher, I have the ability to authorise absences in 'exceptional circumstances' – I cannot think of anything more exceptional than the current situation.





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As a school, we have been preparing for potential closure all last week. Each teacher has a guide to potential online resources which you can use to support your child's education from home. We will be sending these out via ParentMail. Please do ensure that your child has their login for IXL as this is an excellent resource which can be used at any time. Twinkl are also allowing free access to their resources via <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer>. At this time, we do not have the capacity to provide work for individual students.

Please continue to check ParentMail and Twitter for regular updates.

I appreciate that this is a worrying and difficult time. At St Catherine's we are committed to supporting our pupils and those in our school community. Please do email (rather than telephone) the office if you have any concerns. All such emails will be passed to me as I am best placed to assess and address individual circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support. Again, please look after yourselves and others.

God Bless,

Nicola Kane
Headteacher



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