



## St Godric's RC VA Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Craig

*We love, value and respect each other.*

16 March 2020

Dear Parents,

The government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at school we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government. We receive daily updates from the Department for Education that are informed by Public Health England. Please be reassured that we act upon these.

### What is the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is the current official guidance we have been given
- All **school** functions continue to run as normal – this includes all wrap around care
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms they **should remain at home for 7 days**:
  - a continuous cough and/or
  - a temperature
- If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning the office.
- We will no longer attend any events outside of school or hold events that invite others into our environment with close proximity to our children. This means with immediate effect we will not hold/attend:
  - Any Masses/Services of the Word/Liturgies
  - Parent's evening – you will receive a paper report for your child
  - Y6 Football
  - Infant Agility Festival
  - Mother's Day Lunch
  - Mother's Day Liturgy
  - Dance Festival
  - Any events organised by FoSG – School Disco/Quiz Night
  - Y3 visit to Wharton Park
  - Governing Body meeting



- Parish Coffee mornings
  - School photos
  - Key Steps Gymnastics
  - Credit Union Savings Club
- SATs, Phonics and Times Tables Testing are still scheduled to run on the same dates in the Summer Term.
  - We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation

### What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

We are doing all we can to maintain the health of your children, you and your extended families as well as maintaining the health of all our school staff and their families. We are attempting to do this without causing the children additional anxieties.

- Door handles are being washed more frequently
- Enforcing increased hand-washing – at least 4 times per day
- Lessons or assemblies for pupils about hygiene and handwashing

### What we need you to do

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible**
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It is a difficult time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a continuous cough)
- Ensure that lunch boxes and water bottles are thoroughly cleaned, inside and out, daily
- Follow us on Twitter so that we can share pictorial information, videos and links easier than through texts and emails alone.

### What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we will:

- Alert parents to closure via
  - Text
  - A Twitter post
  - Confirmation on the school website
  - Confirmation on the Local Authority school closures webpage [www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures)
- Let you know when the school will be reopened using the methods above
- Send home a pack of work to help you and your child continue their education at home. The booklets have marking schemes in the back so that you can monitor your child's progress. In addition, the children





can access Timestables Rockstars and Spelling Shed online. If your child participates in Lexia, then they will be able to access this from home too. Twinkl are also offering parents an online access to learning materials.

The homework packs will require your child to have access to:

- A writing pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil Sharpener
- Colouring pencils/Felt tips
- It would be of great assistance if you could let us know **now** which items (if any) your child will not have access to

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. There are currently no plans to close.

### If you have any questions

Please consult the:


- School office or me, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use [NHS 111 online](#) if at all possible before calling 111
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead

It is a difficult time and we know you will be worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

A copy of this letter will be placed on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support. I pray that you all stay safe in this uncertain time.

Yours sincerely,

  
Mrs CM Craig  
Headteacher

