



ST PETER'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
AIDED SCHOOL

16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update on the COVID-19 strain of coronavirus

We are continuing to follow the advice from Public Health England and the Department for Education and politely ask you to do the same. I want to reassure you that we are reviewing our practice and protocols daily and will keep you updated with relevant information through our normal channels of communication.

As in all schools, we have a number of students and staff members whose immune systems are compromised and so it is important, in order to protect all members of our community, that we adhere to the advice given by Public Health England:

- Students with a new persistent cough and/or temperature over 37.8 should self-isolate and not come into school for seven days. Current guidance is that siblings should still attend.
- Any child that develops these symptoms during the school day will need to be collected immediately and kept at home for seven days, Current guidance is that siblings should still attend. **Please ensure we have your up to date contact details so we can get in touch easily if this happens.**
- We are reviewing our planned sporting fixtures, visits and trips and will let you know if these are postponed or cancelled.

High staff absence will have an impact on whether the school can remain open fully or partially. Decisions in relation to this are being made on a daily basis and if it is not possible to fully open we will communicate via social media and school comms.

I will continue to be in touch with you when I receive updates and any changes to advice from Public Health England. If your situation involves a complex health scenario then please prioritise contacting medical experts as swiftly as possible.

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NHS 111 Online – latest coronavirus (COVID-19) advice:

Find out what to do if:

- you think you have symptoms
- you might have been exposed to the virus when travelling

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

The link is a self risk assessment. It will ask you a series of yes or no questions and give advice as to what your next steps are.

The importance of hygiene

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19. Please help us in sharing simple and effective hand hygiene messages.

1. Wash your hands more often than usual, for 20 seconds using soap and hot water, particularly after coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose, or after being in public areas where other people are doing so. Use hand sanitiser if that's all you have access to.
2. To reduce the spread of germs when you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or your sleeve (not your hands) if you don't have a tissue, and throw the tissue away immediately. Then wash your hands or use a hand sanitising gel.
3. Clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces using your regular cleaning products to reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people.

With regards to Enrichment Week and overseas trips in particular, we are keeping the situation under review and will be taking a decision on whether we are able to proceed with the trips in line with expert advice. We have been in touch with our insurers and, whilst they are unable to give us any guarantees as each claim will be considered on a case by case basis, we have a high degree of confidence that we will be able to refund any payments and deposits made by parents should a trip be cancelled as a direct result of any cause outside of the control of the participant. This liability is limited up to £3,000.

Thank you for all of your support and understanding in these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully

Phil Randall
Headteacher