

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the '**contain**' phase to one of **delaying** the spread of the virus. We're getting in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this and what you can do, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We'd like to reassure you that at St John's we're taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and the local authority.

What's the current situation?

- The **school remains open** – this is still the current official guidance we've been given.
- School functions continue to run as normal including breakfast and after-school clubs **but we will no longer be having Celebration Worship or Class Assemblies with parents.**
- Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell; ring school as normal with reason for illness.
- If your child has a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature (37.8 degrees centigrade or above) they **should remain at home for 14 days along with the whole household. This is new advice.**
- **We have put a direct link to the latest advice on covid – 19 on the front page of our website**

What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- Teaching children the importance of regular hand washing and how to wash their hands correctly (20 seconds rule) – singing 'Happy Birthday' or 'The Alphabet' song twice
- Enforcing regular hand washing including before and after food and after using toilet
- Covering any coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the bin and then washing hands. 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' strategy.
- Emphasizing not touching mouth, eyes or nose with hands unless they have just been washed
- Lessons and assemblies for pupils about hygiene and how to deal with anxiety – children are a low risk and **reminding them that most people who catch the virus will recover**
- If a pupil feels unwell, we will contact you as normal
- We have hand sanitizers around school and all surfaces are subject to a robust cleaning schedule. We have extra cleaning in place to sanitize tables, door handles etc. at lunch time too.

What we need you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **immediately**
- Come and collect your child straight away, if we ask you to
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary 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
- All GP Surgeries in Darlington are offering online consultations (E- Consult) via their websites; patients will receive a response by the following working day. This can be accessed from practice websites.
- Check that your child has access to our website www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk from home, and let us know if there are any issues so we can help support learning.

What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so or we don't have enough staff to run the school.

In either case, we'll:

- alert parents to closure through Parent Pay text with greater detail on our website www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk
- inform parents when school will be re-opened through Parent pay text
- We have put some quick links to useful websites that the children use in school on the **front page of our website** so that learning could continue at home **if** the school was closed.

If you have any questions

Please consult the:

- > School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- > More information can be accessed <http://www.nhs.uk/covid-19> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.
- > **It is important that you keep yourself up to date as there is new information about pregnancy and vulnerable adults.**

It's a tricky time and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community but it's important to reassure children that most people will recover to try and allay their worries. It's important we keep each other safe, following the most up to date advice and look out for the very vulnerable in our community. I'd like to express my thanks to GP Amanda Riley, one of our parents, who has been advising us.

Thank you for your continued support

Miss Large