



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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17th March 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE 7

Dear parents and carers

Thank you for your cooperation, patience and support as we continue to deal with the challenging impact of Covid-19. Mr Johnson's update this evening made it clear that the Government's policy currently remains the same in relation to keeping schools open. As such, providing we have adequate staffing levels we will remain open. Currently we have **14 members of staff absent (10 are self-isolating for 14 days** according to Government advice).

As such staffing across the school is stretched. **This is the reason why NURSERY was closed today and, unfortunately will remain closed for at least the next fortnight.** This decision has not been taken lightly and I apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause many families.

Should staffing become further compromised, if possible, we will aim to merge any classes where numbers are significantly reduced. If this is not possible I may be forced to close other year groups for a period of time.

Pupil attendance was at 85% today and 11.7% of the total school population (or 52 pupils) are currently subject to a 14 day isolation period.

I know that the closure of nursery and news of parents, staff and children in isolation caused concern today for many. However, I should state that **the school is not currently aware of any cases of coronavirus in the school community.** The extended 14 days isolation and its extension to the entire household, aims to further strengthen this protection. This is why we are enforcing this strictly and are not open to negotiation in relation to an earlier return to school, even if symptoms are improving.

Our communication aims to be open and transparent and I can assure you that, where required, advice is taken from the relevant authorities. The school is following all of the advice issued by Herts County Council, Public Health, Government Departments and the Diocese of Westminster. I implore you to be careful about information, comments and speculation shared on social media and WhatsApp groups which can cause anxiety and distress to others in the community. I appreciate, as a parent myself, that this is based out of concern and anxiety for loved ones. However, if there is information that you need to know, I will share it via the official channels. If you are concerned, please email or call me and I will respond with any accurate information that I am able to share. It may, however, take me a little time to get back to you at the moment as my priority has to be ensuring the safe running of the school and the wellbeing of both children and staff at this time.

Many children, where it is appropriate, came home today with work packs, text books and other physical resources. More may follow tomorrow. These are ready for if your child needs to self-isolate and should be saved for this purpose. There are also links to relevant websites on the class pages of the school website and all children have a log in to 'Purple Mash' which staff will use to set tasks remotely should



the school be forced to close. For those families already in isolation, please make use of the links on the website and we will be back in touch next week with further information about access to work. More information will be sent out in relation to work as soon as we are able to, including information for families where a child may need extra reassurance due to their individual needs.

No doubt I will be in touch again tomorrow with further information.

May I take this opportunity again to thank you for your amazing response to a difficult and unprecedented situation for our community. Thank you to those families who have offered help and to those who have made generous donations of soap, tissues and paper towels. It is great to be a part of a community whose members truly and deeply care for each other.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Jon White
Headteacher

