

ST JOSEPH'S



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Further to my letter on Friday, I would like to update you on the latest Covid-19 advice from the Government and inform you of the new measures the school has introduced.

New Measures

The government advised yesterday that social gatherings should be limited and anyone displaying any of the symptoms will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Therefore, the following additional actions are being taken:

1. Mother's Day Assembly, **Easter Bonnet Parade** and all assemblies are postponed until further notice. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.
2. **All school Masses, trips and sporting fixtures are postponed until further notice.**
3. Vulnerable children with medical conditions are being monitored throughout the day.
4. Tables, doors handles and light switches are being cleaned throughout the day.
5. Pupils and staff, who develop Covid-19 symptoms in school, will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 14 days.
6. **Parents must wait in the reception area when picking their child up from an After School Club. Everyone must use the hand sanitiser provided in the Reception area.**
7. Partial closure of classrooms is highly likely if staff absences increase. Please ensure you have a contingency, childcare plan in place.
8. I will inform you of any confirmed cases of Covid-19 in school.

Please note, in light of the latest Government guidelines, you may find that your child's class is being covered by another teacher/staff member. This is because our staff may have had to start self-isolation (for 14 days or longer) due to the one of the following reasons: their family members may have Covid-19 symptoms; they are part of the vulnerable group; they are displaying symptoms or they may be absent from school due to other non Covid-19 related illnesses or appointments.

I understand this is a very worrying time for you all; particularly if your child has an underlying medical condition or if you or a member of your extended family has an underlying health condition.

As a school community, we are here to support you and will strive to do so in any way we can. Hopefully, the following scenarios and responses will answer any concerns you may have:

1. I am a Healthcare Worker without childcare.

If you are a healthcare professional working within a hospital/surgery/emergency service and you have to work an extra shift or your shift runs over/starts early, please do not worry. Please contact the school and we will help you with your child/ren. There will be no additional costs incurred.

In addition, if there is a partial closure of the school, all healthcare workers' children will be placed in another class. I am sorry that I am unable to do this for all families; however, I

believe it is our duty as a Catholics school to keep the frontline healthcare workers in work where they are desperately needed.

2. My child has flu like symptoms/persistent cough or high temperature (37.8° +).

Follow 111 advice which means your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Any family members will also need to self-isolate. This includes siblings.

If a child develops a cough or temperature in school, they will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. Their siblings will be sent home too. Please email the school at admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk or leave a telephone message on 0208 428 5371 stating your child is self-isolating.

3. My child feels better can they come back to school?

No, please continue to self-isolate for 14 days. Whilst at home, please ensure your child is using our on-line learning programmes (Times Tables Rock Stars, Reading Eggs, Education City, My Maths etc).

4. A family member of the household has flu like symptoms/persistent cough or high temperature (37.8° +).

As the Government guidelines suggest, the whole household will have to self-isolate for 14 days. Please email the school at admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk or leave a telephone message on 0208 428 5371 stating you are all self-isolating.

5. I have a vulnerable child with underlying medical conditions.

If you decide to self-isolate your child due to underlying health conditions, the school will support you and will authorise the absence. Please email the school at admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk or leave a telephone message on 0208 428 5371 stating that your child is self-isolating.

6. I have a close family member with underlying medical conditions.

If a close family member has an underlying medical condition and you want to self-isolate your child to reduce the risk to your family, the school will fully support your decision and will authorise the absence. Please email the school at admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk or leave a telephone message on 0208 428 5371 stating that your child is self-isolating.

7. My child is brought to and from school by an elderly or vulnerable family member.

Please contact the school via admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk or leave a telephone message on 0208 428 5371. We will do our utmost to help you with a solution to support your family.

8. Staff members are absent from the school.

The health and welfare of all our pupils, staff and families is extremely important to us and is our highest priority. If any staff members or members of their household display any of the Covid-19 symptoms, they will have to follow Government guidelines and self-isolate for 14 days.

Please note, where possible, I will endeavour to keep the school open. However, partial closure is likely to be necessary over the next few weeks.

9. I am worried about my child's education

During the school day, life continues as normal for your child. Lessons plans are in place to cover staff absence and all subjects are being taught. During this challenging period, the staff are supporting the children if they have any worries or concerns.

If your child is at home due to self-isolation, they can start using our on-line learning programmes.

Hopefully, I have addressed any concerns you may have and I will continue to update you as matters develop.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone; particularly those across the world affected by Covid-19 and to our frontline workers.

God Bless,

Linda Payne
Headteacher