



ST. ANDREW'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Promoting excellence within a caring, Christian community

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16th March 2020

CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I know that everyone is concerned about the current situation regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus). I would like to let you know about our preparations to safeguard pupils and staff. We are continuing to follow daily guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education and to prepare for different eventualities.

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of a **new continuous cough and/or high temperature**. Public health advice is that if you have either of these symptoms, however mild, you should stay at home **and not leave your house for 7 days** from when your symptoms started. If after 7 days your condition is deteriorating or no better then you should ring 111 (do not go to the doctors or hospital) for further advice.

Please do not send your child to school with a temperature or continuous cough, - we have vulnerable children and adults in school with underlying health conditions.

Continue to remind your child about the importance of **good hand hygiene**. Encourage your child to wash their hands with soap whilst singing **2 verses of 'Happy Birthday'** regularly, particularly after using the toilet, after coughing or sneezing and before eating.

We would ask that you do not send your child into school with hand sanitising gel. We have been advised by the school nursing team that **alcohol-based gel is not appropriate for school use**. Please be assured that all the children have access to antibacterial soap and hand washing facilities.

We are now also entering a phase where we would like to keep visitors to the school to a minimum. For the foreseeable future we will therefore **no longer have visitors to our Golden Book assembly** each Friday or to other celebrations such as our Easter assembly.

There are currently no plans to close the school, however if we do have to close in the future we will provide pupils with **access to a range of resources and work**. As a school we are likely to encounter significant challenges as the situation develops and we will need to adapt our plans accordingly. It seems likely that the government are likely to impose stricter self-isolation measures in the coming days or weeks, which could affect our ability to function normally if staff numbers drop.

These are unprecedented, challenging times for all of us but I know that we will, as always, pull together and support each other.

Mrs K Smith
Headteacher