Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents,

**Week beginning Monday 16th March 2020: COVID-19 UPDATE - THE SCHOOL RESPONSE**

Last Friday 13th March, we sent you a letter to update you on the school’s response to Public Health England and Gov.UK guidelines. Since then, the Chief Medical Officer has released further advice around self-isolation and Public Health England have updated their web pages further. We would encourage you to review the updated information online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The advice is that you should self-isolate at home for seven days if you have a recent onset of:

**· A new persistent cough and/or**

**· High temperature (37.8)**

**If staff or pupils have these symptoms then they should now take steps to stay at home and not leave their house for seven days from when their symptoms started.**  This will help to protect others in the community while they are infectious. Anyone displaying symptoms should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

**If you decide you need to keep your child at home and self-isolate you do not need to contact NHS 111 to tell them they are staying at home and Public Health England will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms. If your symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, contact** [**NHS 111 online**](https://111.nhs.uk/)**. If you have no internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.**

**If your child is displaying the above symptoms and you decide they need to self-isolate please report their absence to school in the usual way.**

To minimalise risk, we will continue to review all unnecessary public gatherings - parent workshops, school visitors, staff training etc.. In the first instance, we have taken the decision to postpone Parent Consultation meetings this week until after the Easter break. In consultation with Fr. Michael, we have postponed our feast day Mass to mark Saint Patrick’s day this week. We have also had to postpone our Feast day plans to celebrate and share reading and storytelling with our local parish and community. Until further notice, regrettably we will have to cease to invite parents to our Golden Assemblies on Friday afternoons.

However, we WILL celebrate our special Feast day with a Collective Worship in-house, our children are invited to wear a free mufti, and we will be organising some afternoon activities and treats as an alternative!

We ask that you keep us informed of anything that you think we need to know – and we will obviously continue to keep you up to date with any information we receive from Public Heath England, The Department for Education or the Local Authority. As you will appreciate, this is a changing situation and we will continue to update you with further information regarding the school’s operations.

Yours sincerely,

Rita E. McLoughlin

Executive Headteacher