

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Rachel Swindell

Assistant Head: Amy Casey

Chair of Governors: Joseph Zammit



We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

13th March 2020

Coronavirus / COVID-19

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your calm and rationale approach to the Coronavirus outbreak. The school continues to be guided on a daily basis by expert advice from the Government and Public Health England. The school is developing contingency plans for all scenarios. We will share plans as they are required, but as it stands our focus is very much on the continued education of our children.

We are continuing to follow the COVID-19 guidance for educational settings which can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>

The Government has also yesterday published new guidance as it enters the 'delay' phase of leading with COVID-19:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Taking advice from the above guidance, we have actioned the following:

1. Focussing on the importance of handwashing and good hygiene practices

The core advice we are sharing with pupils and staff is as follows:

- **Washing hands often** - (before eating, after coughing and sneezing, after using toilets and after travelling on public transport) with soap and hot water for 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol sanitiser only if handwashing facilities are not available.
- **Covering their cough or sneeze with a tissue**, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See [Catch it, Bin it, Kill it](#). Tissues and bins are available in every classroom.
- Use your elbow and sleeve to catch coughs and sneezes if you don't have a tissue.
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

The following video link may be useful.

[NHS Handwashing guidance](#)

2. Risk assessments

For all trips, activities and visitors, we have set specific risk assessments to complete which we will continually review in the lead up to the event. All will be evaluated on an individual basis, again predominantly following the **COVID-19 guidance for educational settings** available at that time.

3. Pupils in school

New messages today from the Government and Public Health England **advise that any person with a new continuous cough or high temperature should self-isolate for 7 days**. Therefore, if a child presents these symptoms at school we will follow the COVID-19 guidance for educational settings above, as set out in paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and contact parents to collect your child.

4. Home learning

In the event of a pupil needing to follow self-quarantine or in the event that the school is advised to partly or fully close to pupils (for either a short or an extended period of time), we are getting ready to continue to provide an education to our pupils.

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, West End, Costessey, Norwich. NR8 5AG

Tel: 01603 – 743317

Email: office@st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ELSA
NETWORK



St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Rachel Swindell

Assistant Head: Amy Casey

Chair of Governors: Joseph Zammit



We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Our staff have been prepared to continue teaching through different methods of home learning, but this will be different for each year group. Further guidelines on this will be provided, but in the first instance examples of home learning will be in the form of:

EXAMPLES

- home learning packs with printed worksheets, useful web links and activities
- access to google classroom where possible in upper KS2
- links shared via the school email

5. Keep in contact with us

Thank you to all parents who are keeping in contact with us with any queries. We are continuing to review guidance on a daily basis to do all we can to make the school a safe environment for all. I must stress that we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school, but if we do get a case I will inform you.

To support us with this, can we ask all parents to:

- Make the school aware of any travel plans in the coming months.
- Keep the school up-to-date with any changes to your child's health.

6. Possible staff illness or self-isolation

Over the next few days and weeks we may have members of staff who have to self-isolate if they have symptoms or have to take care of children who have symptoms, following the Government guidance to take action, even if you do not have a diagnosis of COVID-19. This may mean we struggle to cover classes with teachers, but we will do our best to make sure our school continues to operate as close to normal as possible.

However, if the numbers of staff unable to attend school means that we cannot operate safely, then we may have to (*even if we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19*) consider partial closure or even full closure, with some or all classes not able to attend school. This would be because classes might not have people to supervise them, or we cannot double up classes if needed.

While we hope this will not be the case, I do need to share this possibility with you. Things are moving fast and we face challenging times in the next few days and weeks.

7. Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any further queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

Rachel Swindell
Head Teacher

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, West End, Costessey, Norwich. NR8 5AG

Tel: 01603 – 743317

Email: office@st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk

Website: www.st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk

