



13th March 2020

Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Parents,

You will be fully aware of national and international concerns about COVID-19 and you will also know that the advice regarding COVID-19 is constantly being updated. We, at St Robert's, are taking the following precautionary measures in school to educate and prevent the spread of the virus: In liturgy, Celebration assembly and in class we have explained, and stressed, the importance of correct hand washing – possibly songs to sing whilst applying soap! This should take the recommended time of 20 seconds.

We are monitoring the children in washing their hands and/or use hand sanitiser before touching any food and encouraging them to do so regularly throughout the school day. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are in place throughout school.

Door handles etc are being given an extra clean. As a staff, we are taking extra precautions when someone, staff or pupil, feels unwell. Attached is a document for your information, from Public Health England (PHE), which gives advice on coronavirus for places of education. In the meantime, please can you:

- Continue to monitor your children in washing their hands carefully and regularly, for 20 seconds with soapy water or through the application of alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Remind your children that if they need to sneeze or cough, to do so into tissues and dispose of them safely.
- Remind your children to avoid touching their mouth, nose, eyes or face as much as possible of this.
- If your child or a member of the child's family has returned from a Category 1 area, do not send your child to school. Follow medical guidance from PHE and contact the school by phone to inform us of this.
- If your child falls ill and you believe they have been exposed to the coronavirus either through travel to a Category 1 or 2 area, or through contact with a confirmed case, the government advice currently is to call NHS 111, or 999 in a life-threatening situation.

We are monitoring and responding to government advice on a daily basis and will, of course, update you on our response to any further developments.

If you need any more information, there is a helpline for schools and parents: phone: 0800 046 8687 email DFE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk. Opening hours 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday.

Today we had pupils absent due to a sickness bug. We don't believe this is linked to the Coronavirus and despite our best efforts a bug such as this can spread.

Thank you in advance for your support,

D Sutcliffe

Mr D Sutcliffe
Headteacher



Public Health
England



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Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it
with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it
by washing
your hands with
soap & water or
hand sanitiser

You should wash hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks
& sport
activities



Before
cooking
& eating



SCHOOL
ETC.
On arrival at
any childcare
or educational
setting



After using
the toilet



Before
leaving
home



Try not to touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth
with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come
into contact with your mouth
such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items
such as bedding, dishes,
pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19. Parents can visit **NHS.UK** to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Iran, specific lockdown areas in northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea or Hubei province China (returned in the past 14 days) should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days.

See **NHS.UK** for advice on coronavirus.



If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

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Good School

2019

Healthy Schools



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school

SCHOOL
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