

# English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs G Deery

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

As I am sure that you are aware, the situation regarding The COVID-19 virus in the UK has now escalated significantly.

The number of people within the school community who are self-isolating is increasing daily. This includes members of the school staffing team - some of them because they fall into the 'vulnerable' category, and some because they, or members of their family are displaying symptoms of the virus. For this reason, I want to forewarn you that in the instance of significant staff shortages, for operational and health and safety reasons, the school will:

- Partially close in the first instance. Parents of affected classes will be contacted through the text and email system as soon as is possible. This may be at extreme short notice. Always check the school website and Twitter as closures will be posted there as it is the quickest way to inform parents.
- Fully close – only when we do not have enough staff to operate. Check for information in the same places as mentioned above.

It is our intention to remain open for as long as we are able, while maintaining a safe environment for children and staff alike.

The health and well-being of our staff and children is our highest priority. Please note that it is your responsibility as a parent and member of the community to follow the government directive and avoid all unnecessary social contact with others. If any member within a household develops any of the COVID-19 symptoms – high temperature and/or cough, there is now a requirement for **whole household isolation for 14 days**. Should your child become unwell whilst in school, please support us by being available to collect your child at short notice.

Please also support us by ensuring that the school office have up-to-date contact information. If your child will not be attending school please notify the office as soon as possible and the absence will be recorded for the full 14 day period – you do not need to call every day.

In the event of partial or full closure, or in order to support families who are self-isolating, we are working on putting packs of work on the school website in the learning section organised in year groups. These have been sent to the website provider and will be uploaded in due course. This would mean parents could work with their children at home. In addition, we are working on staff being able to remotely access the school network at home and this will enable them to send daily work via one of the parent's emails. This would only be used for full or partial closure. Please note if a member of staff is displaying symptoms of coronavirus then they would be classed as off work and work via email would be not be possible. We will keep you regularly updated as the situation progresses.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Gillian Deery  
Headteacher

