

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Monkwood Lane (off Monkwood Way) Stevenage Herts SG2 8QJ

Headteacher:
Carmela Puccio BA (Hons)



Tel: 01438 352863
Website: www.clitherow.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@clitherow.herts.sch.uk

Monday 16th March 2020

Dear Parents

The school is continuing to do all that it can to minimise the spread of COVID-19 with good hygiene and is following all the advice from Public Health, Herts County Council and the Diocese of Westminster.

We have **updated our COVID-19 Risk Assessment**. In order that you can be assured that we have planned effectively, we will be sending it to you. We do hope that this reassures you. Please note the risk assessment will continue to be updated in school as guidance changes.

As you know the **government has widened their advice on who should self-isolate to include those that have coronavirus like symptoms - a new or continuous cough or a high temperature (37.8 degrees plus), however mild - should stay at home for at least 7 days to protect others and help slow the spread of the disease**. All our staff will be expected to follow this advice, and we ask you to ensure that your children do so too. At the time of writing we do not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school community. If we are told of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school community we will notify you via parentmail. However, we have several children and parents self-isolating having followed Government guidance. If your children are absent from school because they are ill, please continue to contact the school in the usual manner.

In certain circumstances you may be advised by medical professionals to keep your child at home even if they are not unwell. If this is the case, please let us know and we will support your decision. We understand that parents are concerned about the risk of their children catching Coronavirus and that some may decide to keep children at home even though they have not had any medical advice to do so. In such circumstances, if you are concerned, please do make contact with us so that we can discuss the situation. As a rule of thumb, children who are well enough to come to school are expected to continue attending as normal unless advised otherwise by Public Health England / a medical professional.

Please note that we have decided to cancel all museum visits and sporting fixtures in the coming weeks. A decision about Parent Consultations and Year 3 & 4's Easter Play will take place later this week. We apologise now for any inconvenience this may cause.

Some parents have asked whether we could choose to close the school now. If we are ordered to close the school by Public Health England, because there is a risk to children/students and staff we will do so. Equally, if the government make a decision to close all schools, we will do so. Otherwise our intention is to stay open and operate as normal. The Government has made it clear that it expects schools to remain open unless public health advice has been given to close.

Absence of staff due to self-isolating could lead to either a partial or full closure of the school if not enough staff are available to ensure the safe operation of the school day.

As mentioned in my previous letter, we are preparing home learning in case the school closes – these will be sent to you via parentmail. If your child is currently self-isolating, we continue to update our class pages on our website with websites your child could interact with. Please visit our website, click on Curriculum



Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him
At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children

and then click the first tab on the drop-down menu – this will take you to the class pages which include websites you could use at home.

Can we please ask that you notify the office immediately of any contact telephone number changes, it is important that we are able to contact you quickly should we need to. As far as we are aware, all parents are able to access parentmails, please continue to check the application/your email for any updates.

We will continue to provide updates as the situation continues to develop and would ask that you inform the school of any contact your family may have had with a person with symptoms or who has tested positive.

We thank you all for your support and prayers at this difficult and testing time.

God Bless



Carmela Puccio
Headteacher



Sally Curtis
Chair of Governors

