**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**

 *‘Loving and learning together in faith*



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Headteacher: Mrs Clare Higgins

 16th March 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As you are aware, the government’s guidance on the coronavirus has changed from the ‘contain’ phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We are writing to you to let you know what we are doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School we are taking all of the necessary steps to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government and the local authority.

**What is the current situation?**

* The school remains open – this is the current official guidance that we have been given.
* All school functions continue to run as normal including breakfast club and after-school clubs.
* Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell – if your child has any of the following symptoms, they should remain at home for 7 days: a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature
* If your child is unwell, report this as you would normally by telephoning the school office.
* We’ll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

**It is vitally important that we have up to date contact details for all parents and carers in the school office in case we need to contact you in emergency.**

**What we need you to do**

* If you’ve recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible.
* Re-assure your children, we should make sure children feel supported. BBC Newsround has regular updates for younger children and Young Minds has practical steps older children can take to help with anxiety.
* Please come and collect your child straight away, if we call you (we will contact you if they become ill with either a high temperature or a new, continuous cough)

**What happens if the school has to close?**

We will only close the school if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to keep the school open.

Please keep in mind that we are only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

**If you have any questions**

Please consult the:

* School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue
* NHS, if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible before calling 111
* Department for Education’s coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government’s response to coronavirus in relation to schools
* Government’s travel advice, if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you’re taking abroad should go ahead.

We know you are worried about the impact this might have on our school community. It’s important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Clare Higgins

Headteacher