



# Holy Ghost Catholic Primary School

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HEADTEACHER  
Susan Lawless

11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

## Re: Coronavirus Update

You are likely aware of the outbreak of Coronavirus and the subsequent confirmed cases in the UK. At Holy Ghost, we take the health and safety of our pupils and staff very seriously, so we're sharing guidance from Public Health England on steps you should be taking.

There is currently no cause for concern at the school, but we'll keep you informed about any developments and continue to ensure we're taking all steps to prevent the spread of any virus.

These are the actions we are taking in school to help reduce risk of infection:

- Hand towels removed – replaced with paper towels.
- Disinfecting of all high use areas – surfaces and door handles – each morning.
- Closed off the drinking water fountains.
- Encouraging children to wash their hands after play and after lunch – as an absolute minimum.
- Washing and disinfecting equipment used by the younger children.
- Keeping the message alive for the children – Reception class are our experts!



- Keeping the message alive for parents who have travelled to those areas requiring self-isolation on return.

The PTA have also decided to postpone their Oscars' Night, in light of the advice being received from the Department of Public Health.

You may have also seen the letter from Fr Richard, following the virus outbreak, with advice from the Archbishop:

- The Archbishop (following Government policy) also advises that those especially vulnerable – such as those with weakened/ing immune systems, or suffering from long term conditions such as cancer, diabetes or heart disease – should avoid all large gatherings, including those at church, at this time. Likewise, anybody with cold or flu symptoms should stay away from church as a precaution, to avoid infecting other people.

**General advice on how you can help prevent the spread of infection is as follows:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds – alcohol hand sanitiser can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or vulnerable
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and do not attend work or school
- Cover your cough / sneeze with a tissue – throw this away afterwards
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home

**Travel Advice**

Since 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has issued updated travel advice. Please see below:

**Category 1 countries**

The Foreign and Commonwealth travel office advises against all but essential travel to:

- Italy
- The mainland of China

Advises against **all** travel to:

- Wuhan City and Hubei Province (China)
- Iran (after the 19<sup>th</sup> February)
- Daegu or Cheongdo (South Korea)

If returning from one of the category 1 countries contact 111 for advice and self-isolate for 14 days after leaving the country / area. (See advice on home isolation on the Public Health England website – link below.)

**Category 2 Countries**

Including:

- Cambodia
- China (except Wuhan and Hubei)
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- South Korea

- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

**If you and your child are well:**

- You do not need to avoid contact with others
- Your other family members don't need to take precautions or make any changes to their own activities.

**If you or your child become unwell:**

- Stay indoors and avoid contact with other people as you would do with any other flu viruses. Do not attend work or school.
- Call 111 immediately for an assessment (or 999 if you require emergency medical attention.)

If you have returned from a category 1 or 2 country please be vigilant in observing for the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fever (a temperature of 38 degrees or higher)

For further information, please use one of the links below:

**Public Health England**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

**Travel Advice**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

If you or your child have any further concerns or questions, please contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

*Susan Lawless*

Susan Lawless  
Headteacher

**"A child who is helped by another child is like a strong city"**