



St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School

Part of the St Catherine of Siena Multi Academy Company
(Company number: 09497062)

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Head Teacher:

Mrs J Downes

13.3.20

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID-19: Coronavirus

Our boys and girls have been very good at taking care of themselves by handwashing regularly. We have noticed that a number of children are coming to school with hand sanitizer. Whilst this is good that you are helping your child be safe as they travel with you, it is a health and safety risk in school. The government recommend hand sanitiser **ONLY** when soap is not available, as soap and water is the best option. We cannot allow children to have hand sanitizer (or any other toiletry items) as it is a health and safety hazard. If soap runs out during the day, children are encouraged to tell a member of staff immediately, which they have been doing.

We receive regular advice from Public Health England regarding the Coronavirus. They have informed us that the government is monitoring Coronavirus and taking action at home and abroad. Below are some **Government guidelines**.

How to prevent the spread of infection

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

There are general principles anyone can follow to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- washing your hands often - with soap and water, or use **alcohol sanitiser** if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. See Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- people who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education or childcare setting
- pupils, students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
 - before leaving home
 - on arrival at school
 - after using the toilet
 - after breaks and sporting activities



'Jesus holds us in the palm of his hand.'





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- before food preparation
- before eating any food, including snacks
- before leaving school
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- if you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- see further information on the [Public Health England Blog](#) and the [NHS UK website](#).

Face masks for the general public, pupils or students, or staff are not recommended to protect from infection, as there is no evidence of benefit from their use outside healthcare environments.

People who have returned from Category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days should self-isolate. This includes avoiding attending an education setting or work until 14 days after they return.

People who have returned from Category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days, are advised to stay at home if they develop symptoms. All other pupils or students and staff should continue to attend school or university, including their siblings attending the same or a different school (unless advised not to by public health officials).

We know that you will keep us informed if there is anything to know regarding your son/daughter's health. Thank you for your ongoing support in this.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Downes
Head Teacher / Principal

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