



ST BEDE'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Harold Street
Jarrow
Tyne & Wear
NE32 3AJ

Tel: (0191) 489 8218
Fax: (0191) 420 3603
E-mail: office@stbedesjarrow.co.uk
www.st-bedesrcjarrow.s-tyneside.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs M Rooney

Jesus is at the heart of life in St Bede's School.

We pray that He will guide us to be happy, love one another and always do our best

17 March 2020

Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware, the government's guidance on coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying its spread. We are getting in touch to let you know what we are doing in light of this situation, and what we expect from all of you to help make sure our school community remains safe and calm.

We would like to reassure you that we are taking all the necessary steps to protect our school community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government. We receive daily updates from the Department for Education that are informed by Public Health England. Please be reassured that we act upon these.

What is the current situation?

The school remains open – this is the current official guidance we have been given. All school functions will now be cancelled – **except for Breakfast and Teatime Clubs.**

Pupils should attend unless they feel unwell.

If your child has any of the following symptoms they should remain at home for 14 days:

- a new, continuous cough and/or a temperature.

If your child is unwell, please report this as you would normally by telephoning the office.

We will no longer attend any events outside of school or hold events that invite others into our environment with close proximity to our children.

This means that with immediate effect we will not hold/attend:

- **Masses and Stations of the Cross**
- **Collective Worship**
- **SEND termly review meetings**
- **Y4 Class Trip to the Pizza-Making Workshop**
- **Reception Class Trip to the farm**
- **All after-school and lunchtime activity clubs (Spanish, Art, Times Tables, Music, Gardening, Knitting, Eco Saints, Mini Vinnies, Mindfulness)**
- **All trips to Jarrow Focus – library visits**
- **Y4 trip to OpenZone at The Word.**

External Tests

SATs, Phonics and Times Tables Testing are still scheduled to run on the same dates in the Summer Term. We will keep you up to date regarding any changes to the current situation.

What we are doing to protect and support pupils and staff

We are doing all we can to maintain the health of your children, you and your extended families as well as maintaining the health of all our school staff and their families. We are attempting to do this without scaring the children or leading them to worry unduly. Door handles are being washed more frequently and we are enforcing increased hand-washing, as well as reminding the children about the importance of hygiene.



What we need you to do:

- If you have recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible
- Talk to your children about coronavirus. It is a scary time and we should make sure that they feel supported. **BBC Newsround** has regular updates for younger children and youngminds.org.uk has practical steps that older children can take to help with anxiety
- Come and collect your child straightaway if we ask you to do so (we will contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Ensure that lunch boxes and water bottles are thoroughly cleaned, inside and out, daily

What happens if the school has to close?

We will only close if we are either officially advised to do so or we do not have enough staff to run the school. In either case, we will:

- Alert parents to closure via text, letter, Facebook or the school website as well as through confirmation on the Local Authority school closures webpage: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/36430/School-closures>
- Let you know when the school will be reopened using the methods above
- Send home a resource pack to help you and your child continue their education at home. We will be sending packs home tomorrow (18.03.20). These packs will require your child to have access to a writing pencil and/or pen, ruler, rubber, pencil sharpener, colouring pencils/felt tips and access to an iPad/internet.

IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW NOW WHICH ITEMS YOUR CHILD **WILL NOT** HAVE ACCESS TO.

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 or myself if you have any questions about our response to this issue
- The 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
- The government's travel advice if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you are taking abroad should go ahead

Of course, these are very uncertain times and we know you are worried about the impact this might have on our community. It is important we keep each other safe and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support,

Moya Rooney

Headteacher

