

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Outbreak Letter for School – NHS Advice to Parents

Dear Parents,

Over the last few weeks we have been made aware of several children in our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We will today break up for half term and will return to school on Monday 2nd November. It is important that government guidance is followed if your child has COVID symptoms – please read the attached letter from Bolton MBC in relation to this.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared as advised in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>.

You should arrange for testing for your child via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or 111.nhs.uk or primary care.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:



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- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

We have successfully implemented virtual lessons for students self-isolating over this half term, including some live lessons through Microsoft Teams and homework tasks via Show My Homework. Please continue to encourage your child to check Show My Homework and their school email during any periods they are required to self-isolate.

Face Masks

Whilst Bolton remains in a local lockdown area it is important that all students aged 11 and over bring a face mask into school to wear in any area where social distancing between year group bubbles is not possible. Please could you ensure your child brings a face mask into school each day when they return to school after half term. This is also extremely important if your child uses public transport.

Further information in relation to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Devany

Headteacher