

Dear Parents/Carers

We write with a further update relating to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and the measures we are taking at St Luke's to keep all our pupils and staff safe. We continue to monitor the situation daily and to be led by the advice of the Government and Public Health England (PHE). At the time of writing this letter PHE are advising:

" ... no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) coronavirus case unless directed to do so".

- **staff, young people and children should stay at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. Otherwise they should attend education as normal**
- **if children become unwell at school with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they will be sent home**

Our site and cleaning staff are working extremely hard to ensure that all areas of the school are cleaned thoroughly.

We are taking every precaution to maintain high standards of hygiene across the school, and remind pupils to support this. We have had assemblies on hand washing, and pupils are reminded in class. Please do remind your children at home as well:

- Wash your hands often – with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or sanitiser if soap and water are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- Thorough handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing; everyone should also wash hands after using toilets
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you feel unwell, stay at home and don't attend work or school
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- If you're worried about your symptoms, please call NHS 111 – don't go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment

Please be assured that the health and welfare of each and every member of the St Luke's School community is our primary concern. In relation to this we have a number of pieces of advice to support us in this;

The DfE website advises that 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.

While we continue to follow all guidance and advice from these official bodies, we do need to be mindful that this is a dynamic situation, and advice may change in the future.

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows: Phone: 0800 046 8687 Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) Updates on Coronavirus can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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.

For up-to-date information on the outbreak of the Coronavirus go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

This information is updated at 2.00pm daily.

For advice on affected countries and any restrictions please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-specified-countries-and-areas>

If there are any changes in the situation of the school we will of course inform you immediately.

I Walsh
Headteacher

