

THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD  
**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY**

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*Reported in the Times Top Ten Schools in Essex 2014*

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to give further advice following on from: the Government announcement yesterday, advice from Public Health England, the Local Authority, diocese and other relevant support.

Please be aware of the following:

1. If you or any family member displays symptoms of either a continuous cough or high temperature, it is essential that you stay at home and self-isolate your whole family for 14 days. If symptoms worsen you must phone 111.
2. If you belong to an 'at risk' group can you please practice isolation measures for the foreseeable future. The government will be providing further advice about who the risk groups are, but in the meantime please refer to the following document.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

3. We will endeavour to keep the school open, however the staff shortages are already beginning to impact on daily procedures. It will be necessary in the coming days to join up classes and this will be particularly effective if any class has low numbers. Similarly, I have already advised you that should kitchen staff be unable to attend then you will be asked to provide your child with a packed lunch.
4. We may have to close sections of the school if staff absence becomes critical however we are also mindful of parents who work in the emergency services and wish to support them. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU INFORM MRS SLATER IMMEDIATELY IF YOU WORK IN HEALTH, POLICE OR FIRE SERVICES so we can endeavour to keep your children at school for as long as possible. A letter asking for details has been sent out, please complete this and return.
5. All after-school clubs with the exception of After-School Club, at the moment, have been cancelled. We will keep you up to date regarding after school provision.
6. The Young Shakespeare Company visit, Reception trip, library and all other visits and visitors have been cancelled



7. No visitors are allowed to school.
8. No direct consultation between parents and staff will be permitted. Staff can speak to you via telephone or email. Again this is for social distancing reasons.
9. We are concerned about groups of parents congregating on the school playground at the end of the school day and are in the process of preparing varied home-time procedures. We will inform you of these by tomorrow.
10. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A COUGH OR TEMPERATURE. We have prepared an isolation room for such eventualities but it would be helpful if we only had to use it for children who may develop symptoms during the day.
11. We have prepared work and are currently working to add to this- in the likely event of school closures. We are unable to provide any extra work at the moment as staff are also preparing work for the current school day.


Please ensure that you have access to ItsLearning as this will be the main platform that we will use to support your children's learning. If you do not have access to a computer or have difficulties with ItsLearning please contact Mrs Slater ASAP.

For further advice can I ask you to refer to the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

Once again may God bless you all and keep you safe

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION  
IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



O Mary,  
you always brighten our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain  
while remaining steadfast in faith.  
O loving Mother,  
you know what we need,  
and we are confident you will provide for us  
as at Cana in Galilee.  
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus,  
the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill,  
for those who are vulnerable,  
and for those who have died.  
Intercede also for those charged with  
protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick  
and seeking a cure.  
Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who took upon himself our  
sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so as to lead us, through the Cross,  
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God,  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help)  
in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark  
the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Faldinca of San Pietro's, Faldinca.

Kind Regards

Miss McGuiggan  
Head Teacher