

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your communication with school regarding our current situation. I appreciate this time is a worrying one for us all and one which seems to be changing daily. I am aware that 2 of our local schools have closed today for the next 2 days for a 'deep clean'. This course of action is the right course of action for them in light of their circumstances. I have again contacted PHE for advice and the advice for our school is that in light of our circumstances we remain open and follow our planned course of action (as many other schools are doing). If you have not yet seen the Action Plan / Risk Assessment then you can find it on our website – On the Home page, there is a tab which says Coronavirus. Alternatively, please click on the link below:

<https://www.athertonsacredheart.wigan.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-risk-assessment.pdf>

I have met with the Senior Leaders in school today and we have decided, in line with our planned course of actions, to postpone events in school which involve parents or large gatherings. This decision was not taken lightly and has been done so considering all current advice. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone the following events this week:

- HCPT Sponsored walk – Wednesday
- Let's Sing with St. Mary's – Wednesday – this has already been communicated earlier today
- Y6 Rejoice Assembly
- Mothers' Day Assembly – Thursday
- NSPCC assembly – Friday
- Family Mass – Saturday

It is likely that all future events between now and Easter will also be postponed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

At this moment, we have decided to keep open our after school clubs. This will be reviewed in line with expectations placed upon school and the guidance given to schools. Please keep this in mind, that we may have to restrict or temporarily postpone this facility.

In response to a couple of queries:

Under usual circumstances, children who are off sick for a couple of days will not be set specific work by school, as in line with school policy. However, as these are different times, we recommend the following: **Reading (Home reader or another book), TT Rockstars, Top Marks website (daily challenges), and the BBC website (Or Youtube) for videos related to current topics of study. If you have one child off sick, you can access 20 free maths questions per day on ixl.com**

Children who are self-isolating (7 days) – we recommend the above activities as a starting point. Please contact school for further guidance, as this expectation may change moving forward.

As I am writing this, we have received today's advice from Public Health England. This states:

- 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 or work as normal
- if staff, young people or children become unwell on site with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature they should be sent home

- clean and disinfect regularly touched objects and surfaces more often than usual using your standard cleaning products
- supervise young children to ensure they wash their hands for 20 seconds more often than usual with soap and water or hand sanitiser and catch coughs and sneezes in tissues

The current advice remains the same, unless it is necessary to do so, schools should remain open.

We will of course, continue to monitor the situation and amend our course of action based on the facts and advice given. We understand that the information you are receiving from media outlets and other sources only enhances the feeling of uncertainty. Rest assured, if we are required to close a class or the whole school for a 'deep clean' then we will take this course of action but only when it is right for our school and our circumstances. This is consistent with the information we have received today from both the Archdiocese and Local Authority.

Thank you once again for your patience and support in this manner. We are continuing with our enhanced programme of cleaning (before school, during the day and after school). The children have been their usual happy selves in school today and unless the situation changes over night, we remain open tomorrow.

Kind Regards

Mr McDermott