

St. John's RC School
Turpins Lane, Woodford Bridge
Essex. IG8 8AX
Telephone: (020) 8504 1818
office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk
www.stjohnsrcschool.co.uk
Head of School: Mrs Wendy Killilea

31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have managed to have a nice Christmas break.

You may have heard the education Secretary's announcement yesterday that due to the high and rising COVID-19 infection rates the government is delaying the return to school for primary and secondary school pupils at the start of next term.

Gavin Williamson said in his statement that the areas with the highest infection rates will have different restrictions from most. London boroughs and Essex fall into this category. The guidance is that where possible special schools will open for all students, but in delaying the return of secondary students until 11th January will give us the time to establish the testing of pupils on site and ensure that the infrastructure is in place to facilitate this.

Where the contingency framework is implemented, special school pupils who are of primary school age should continue to attend school, attendance is encouraged but will not be mandatory for special school pupils and parents will not be penalised if their child does not attend.

The guidance is changing each day and I am sure that you are all as concerned as me about the speed with which this virus is spreading.

We will be providing remote learning for those secondary pupils (year 7 and above) whom are remaining at home and for those primary aged pupils whose parents/carers would feel happier if they remained at home where they would feel safer under the current circumstances.

We look forward to seeing the return of secondary and post 19/college pupils on the 11th January and primary pupils and on Tuesday 5th January.

I will of course update you again if this situation changes.

Kind Regards,

Wendy Killilea
Head of School
St Johns
Turpins Lane
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COVID GUIDANCE

If your young person does develop symptoms of COVID

You must seek a test for your young person and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

The quickest way to book a test is at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coonvirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test is positive you must inform the school via school email and we will then be able to identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should still inform the school but you do not need to take any further action.

Please contact the school on office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk, please provide the school with the following information, name and the date the symptoms started

Self-isolation is essential to reducing the spread of COVID-19 as it breaks the chains of transmission. The government states that, after a review of evidence, it will reduce the number of days that contacts self-isolate from 14 days to 10 days. Self-isolation periods for contacts will begin on the day after exposure, a test or the start of symptoms.

This also applies to people who return from countries which are not on the travel corridor list who, from 14th December, should also self-isolate for 10 days instead of 14 days.

Symptoms

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

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

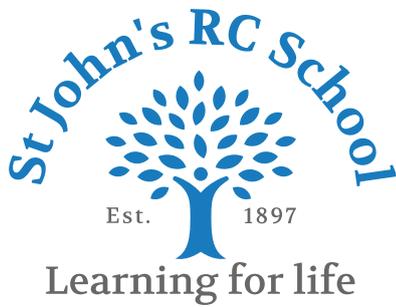
For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household 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



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- 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

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