



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
Elsenham Crescent, Basildon, SS14 1UE



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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Dear Parents

17th March 2020

As I'm sure you will appreciate, we are currently dealing with a situation that is rapidly changing. My main priority is the health and safety of the pupils and staff in our school.

Following government actions last night regarding remaining to keep schools open, today we have adjusted the timings of our school day to stagger break times and lunch times and stop whole school assemblies, no visitors to the school, all school events involving the community have been cancelled for now e.g. masses, assemblies etc.

Where possible we are keeping classes isolated from each other as we believe this may help.

With this in mind all afterschool clubs will be cancelled after today. This means from Wednesday 18th March **no after school clubs** e.g. booster, sports etc. will run until further notice.

I know parents rely heavily on our breakfast club so I will not be cancelling this for now but please only use it if it is a necessity as I will have to employ additional staff to keep classes separate. Breakfast **will not** be served after today; it will be purely to provide childcare only so please make sure you give your child breakfast before they leave the house. Please support us by only using this service if it is your only option.

We will not be sending reading books home or homework books home for now.

The tuck trolley at break time will not be running from now on until further notice.

This is an entirely unprecedented situation and we are following official advice from the government. This advice is being updated on a daily basis and we are monitoring and responding to that as it is published. This official advice will underpin all the actions we take.

Whilst I appreciate that there will be a wide range of different views about how we should be responding and what action should be taken, I hope you will appreciate that I am duty bound to follow the official advice from government. I feel truly disappointed as a Catholic Head teacher that there are parents within our school community who believe striking against the school is an appropriate measure. I also feel if this is your belief it is not supporting the Catholic ethos of our school and you should consider moving to a school where your values will be supported.

The overriding message to parents, staff and students is to follow government and Public Health England advice. If you are concerned that your child is exhibiting Coronavirus symptoms the advice from NHS (a high temperature, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly) keep your child at home. If you believe your child has an underlying illness or is susceptible to becoming ill, keep your child at home.

We are looking into getting work put on the website in case of future closure and I will keep you updated regarding this.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cashell