



# St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

*Service Compassion Justice Perseverance*

Friday 13 March 2020

Dear Families,

## **CORONAVIRUS - COVID-19**

On a daily basis we receive guidance from the Department of Education and Public Health England regarding the coronavirus outbreak.

Currently, we are managing the situation in school by maintaining a high level of cleaning in all areas. Staff and students have also been advised to wash their hands frequently as this is believed to minimise the risk of infection. We have no reported cases in school.

### **Internal and external events**

Some trip, visits and externally hosted events have been cancelled. External visitors are following the protocol of their organisation and St Martin's protocols when they arrive.

### **As a school we are doing the following**

#### **Cleaning**

- We have implemented a higher level of cleaning in all areas
- Extra care is taken on high touch areas such as door handles, push panels, taps, toilet flushes, handrails and table tops and antibacterial spray is being used for this
- We are using antibacterial wipes for keyboards and any other appliances that are regularly touched

#### **Awareness**

- We have posters around the school highlighting the importance of handwashing and maintaining a high level basic personal hygiene
- NHS posters on handwashing are on display in the lavatories
- A poster and hand sanitiser is located in the reception
- Hand sanitisers are located in parts of the school
- You will be aware that there is a shortage of hand sanitiser. We are being careful with the stock that we have. In the meantime, please ask your child to bring their own to school for their personal use.

#### **What you can do**

- Provide your child with hand sanitiser to use as appropriate. This is not a substitute for washing hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. However, sanitiser is a useful alternative where handwashing is not available
- Provide your child with tissues to use when she sneezes and coughs
- Remind your child about the importance of good basic personal hygiene
- Ask your child not to share personal items, for example their mobile phone or headphones and not to share food items that have to be touched eg bags of snacks, such as crisps

The latest update from Public Health England can be found daily on our school website. The Department for Education has launched a new helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:

**Phone:** 0800 046 8687

**Email:** [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk)

**Opening hours:** 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

**Headteacher** Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

155 Tulse Hill London SW2 3UP T 020 8674 5594 F 020 8674 1379 [www.stmartins.academy](http://www.stmartins.academy)

St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales

Registered Number 07984073. Registered office: 155 Tulse Hill, London SW2 3UP

**WITH LOVE AND LEARNING**



As you will be aware there is talk of possibly closing schools. I will keep you updated but currently there are no plans as yet for wholesale school closures in any part of the UK. The Department for Education in England is advising all schools to stay open. See also the link to BBC news.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-51835486>

We are looking at our contingency plan should the Government decide to close all schools. We use google classrooms and all the students have access to this. There are lots of resources tasks in each class/subject and year group area.

Personal hygiene is the most important way we can tackle COVID-19. Public Health England has a dedicated webpage with a range of posters and digital materials at: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/101-coronavirus-/resources> Sign up is quick, free and means you will be alerted as more resources are made available.

### **Preventing the spread of infection**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus.

### **The general principles to avoid the spread of infection are:**

- washing your hands often with soap and hot water, or using alcohol based sanitisers if handwashing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport
- covering your cough/sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin. **Catch it, Bin it, Kill it**
- students, staff and visitors should wash their hands:
  - before leaving home
  - on arrival at school
  - after using the toilet
  - after breaks and sporting activities
  - before food preparation
  - before eating any food, including snacks
  - before leaving school
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

A reminder of the symptoms to look out for:

- a cough
- a high temperature
- shortness of breath

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, you should remain at home and call the NHS dedicated helpline - 111.

We understand that these are concerning times, and we will continue to answer questions as best we can from anxious families. There is no reason why your child should not continue to attend school as normal, however, should your child exhibit any of the signs above, the best course of action is for them to remain at home and follow the NHS guidance. Please let us know should this be the case.

Your sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus  
Headteacher