



16 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the updated Government advice on the approach to managing COVID-19 we would like to ensure we are all clear on the advice to be followed.

The latest Government information can be found here:

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

We would like to draw your attention to this guidance in particular, which we ask you to follow:

***Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:***

- ***a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back***
- ***a new, continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly***

***Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.***

***You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home.***

***Testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home.***

***Read [advice about staying at home.](#)***

***If symptoms persist beyond seven days or if you get worse you should contact the NHS's dedicated 111 [online coronavirus service.](#)***

In School we will do our utmost to ensure these guidelines are followed as far as possible. Should your child develop one of these symptoms during the school day, you will be contacted and asked to collect them, and until the 7 days have expired your child should not return to school.

NHS 111 has an online service <https://111.nhs.uk> and the Department for Education also offers a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687      Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday).

In the event of increased staff absence due to the need for self-isolation, we will review our staffing coverage on a daily basis. In some instances there may be a need to combine two or more classes together in one of our larger spaces with supervision from a senior member of staff. Should staffing levels fall to a level where we are unable to manage safely in this way, we would consider a partial closure with certain year groups being asked to stay at home. In these instances we would prioritise Years 11 and 13 and also younger students remaining in school, in order to minimise the impact of childcare needs on our parents and carers.

We are in the process of cancelling all overseas trips due to take place in the first half of the summer term. Trips within the UK will still go ahead at this time unless we receive updated advice from organisers to the contrary. We are also cancelling all sports fixtures for the rest of this term, many of which have already been cancelled by other schools.

Andover Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6JP **Tel:** 01635 521255 **Fax:** 01635 576320 **email:** [office@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:office@stbarts.co.uk) **Web:** [www.stbarts.co.uk](http://www.stbarts.co.uk)  
Headteacher: Ms J A Mortimore BA (Hons), MA

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The House Drama competition will now take place immediately after school tomorrow but regrettably it will only be for an internal student and staff audience. We apologise for the disappointment to those of you who had planned to attend this event but this decision has been made to restrict the number of external visitors to school.

### **School closure**

There has been much discussion over closure of schools and whilst we have no information that indicates this is likely to happen we are taking steps to ensure we are prepared for this eventuality and able to deliver lessons and work via SMHW. All departments across the school are ensuring that work and resources are planned to enable learning to continue at home in the event of a closure. We are also exploring approaches to distance learning involving access to other electronic communication, with a particular focus on students in Years 11 and 13 and additional revision resources.

We are asking all students to make sure that they have copies of any textbooks that have been issued by the school and that these are taken home daily. Where students are self-isolating we will endeavour to ensure that work is set for them to complete at home if they are well enough to do this.

### **In the event of a school closure our students will be expected to:**

- Take responsibility for their own learning;
- Check SMHW and their school emails daily for notifications, instructions, and feedback;
- Spend a minimum of 3 to 4 hours a day on lesson activities and tasks set by their teachers;
- Complete all tasks on paper or online as required and meet any deadlines given;
- Engage in any other learning activities their teachers have prepared, including extended tasks;
- Read for a minimum of 30 minutes a day;
- Apply the transferrable skills they have developed and be resilient and resourceful;
- Show us what they can achieve!

### **We would be grateful if you could ensure your son/daughter:**

- Is able to access SMHW and his/her school email and routinely checks these;
- Has an appropriate space in which he/she can learn independently;
- Engages in the lessons and learning opportunities provided by his/her teachers;
- Spends 3-4 hours learning each day and completes all tasks on time;
- Keeps in touch with his/her teachers.

Thinking about the wider interests of the community in which we live we would also like to encourage everybody connected to the school to think about our immediate neighbours and those who are most vulnerable. As social distancing measures are introduced, we would all want to make sure that the elderly and isolated people of the local area who live alone are not forgotten.

We would like to thank you for all the support you have given as we manage this challenging and developing situation.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J Mortimore  
Headteacher