



11th March 2020

We are very much aware of the growing concerns around coronavirus (Covid-19). There have been no confirmed cases in our area that St Patrick's PS have been made aware of, however we are following carefully the guidance from the Public Health Agency

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>.

All of our children attended a special assembly on Tuesday afternoon regarding personal hygiene and we would appreciate you spending some time at home reinforcing these key points.

- Washing your hands often – with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser if handwashing facilities are not available. Very important after using public transport.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin and washing hands. Do not share tissues.
- All children, pupils, 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
 - ✓ Use an alcohol-based sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
 - ✓ 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
 - ✓ If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, call NHS 111. Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment
- People who feel unwell should stay at home and should not attend work or any education setting.

Remember to ensure all of your children are using tissues when necessary and are able to independently wipe their noses and wash their hands properly. At the same time, we all know that children can enjoy nothing better than getting outside and enjoying a muddy puddle or a sliding tackle on the pitch, so let's remember that as well. Frenzy and hype are for us adults, so let's keep the children as happy as they should be and hopefully illness free!

Many thanks for your co-operation

M McGrath

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