



# Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

A Catholic Voluntary Academy

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you're probably aware, the government's guidance on the Coronavirus has changed from the 'contain' phase to one of delaying the spread of the virus. We're keeping in touch to let you know what we're doing in light of this, and what we expect from all of you, to help make sure our school community keeps safe and calm.

We have no cases of Coronavirus reported within the staff, pupils or families at Bellerive.

We'd like to reassure you that we're taking all of the necessary steps at Bellerive to protect our community and are continuing to follow official guidance from the government, Public Health England and Liverpool City Council.

## What's the current situation?

The **school remains open** – this is the current, official guidance we've been given. We have sufficient staff to ensure that your child is safe and her education is continuing. All school functions (lessons, Dining Room, buses) continue to run as normal.

If you, your child, or anyone you live with has the following symptoms, you must follow the Government guidance to stay at home:

- A new, continuous cough and/or
- A high temperature

If your child is unwell or is self-isolating, report this as you would normally by contacting the school absence line.

All overseas trips have been cancelled, along with domestic trips, for the foreseeable future.

Exams are still scheduled to run on the same dates and we will keep pupils and parents informed of any new information around this.

We'll keep you up to date with any changes to the current situation.

## What we're doing to protect and support pupils and staff

- We have employed additional cleaning staff, who are working throughout the school day, to ensure that we can keep our school as clean and safe as possible.
- If a pupil reports as being ill, we have contacted parents to collect their child. This does not mean that we believe that they have contracted Coronavirus.

*Headteacher*  
Mrs N Howlett, MSc, NPQH

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[www.bellerivefcj.org](http://www.bellerivefcj.org)



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- We have educated our pupils on handwashing and continue to issue frequent reminders about this.
- We have cancelled additional visitors and activities in school.
- Please be aware that the Year 8 Parents' Evening, scheduled for the 31<sup>st</sup> March, has been postponed.

## What we ask you to do

- If you've recently changed your contact details, please inform the school office **as soon as possible** via email: [contactus@bellerivefcj.org](mailto:contactus@bellerivefcj.org).
- Talk to your children about the coronavirus. It's a scary time and we should make sure children feel supported. [BBC Newsround](#) has regular updates for younger children and [YoungMinds](#) has practical steps that older children can take to help with anxiety.
- Come and collect your child straight away if we ask you to (we'll contact you if they become ill with either a temperature or a new, continuous cough)
- Check that your child has access to the online platforms from home, and let us know if there are any issues (so we can make sure we're well prepared for remote learning if the school does need to close at some point). All pupils were given a personalised list of platforms with login details. Copies were posted home today to those not in school.

## What happens if the school has to close?

We'll only close if we're either officially advised to do so, or we don't have sufficient staff to run the school. In either case, we will:

- Send out email and text messages and put a notice on our website
- Use the same means to contact you regarding the school reopening
- Set work on online platforms for pupils to do during the school day and pupils will have access to teacher school email addresses.

Please keep in mind that we're only sending out this information to help the school community prepare. **There are currently no plans to close.**

## If you have any questions, please consult the:

- School office, if you have any questions about our response to this issue.
- [NHS](#), if you want to know more about the symptoms of coronavirus. If you think you or your child may have the symptoms, use NHS 111 online if at all possible, before telephoning 111.

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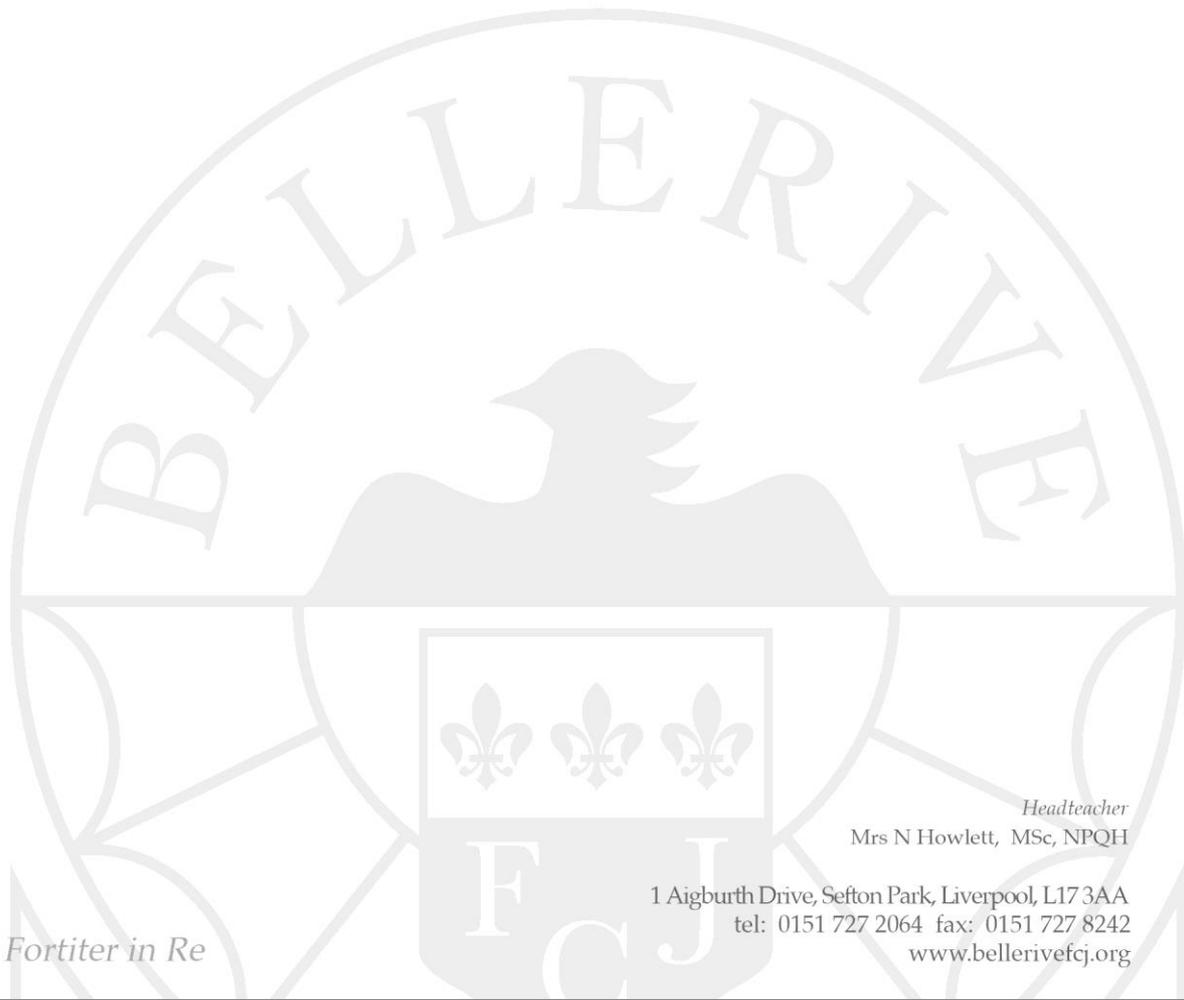
- Department for Education's coronavirus helpline: 0800 046 8687, if you have any questions about the government's response to coronavirus in relation to schools.
- Government's [travel advice](#), if you want to know whether any upcoming trip or holiday you're taking abroad should go ahead.

It's a difficult time and one that neither schools nor the global community have ever faced before and we know you're worried about the impact this might have on our community and your child's education. It's important we keep each other safe, follow the guidelines as we are given them, and talk about these events to help with any anxiety.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs N. Howlett**  
Headteacher



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