**Working at St Luke’s during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Crisis**

**Hand hygiene - Updated Guidance 5th March 2021**

**Hand washing (staff)**

The advice to schools from the DfE is that good hand hygiene is the best method of stopping the virus spreading. Staff must follow the handwashing advice below:

* Staff must wash their hands regularly and for 20 seconds. Wash them:
  + 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
  + after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
* Staff should pay particular attention to handwashing before and after supporting children with personal care routines such as changing, toileting or eating, even if they have worn disposable gloves.
* The guidance on PPE and the Public Health England Video go into more detail on handwashing when putting on and taking off PPE

**Hand Sanitizer**

Hand sanitizer is available at school. Hand sanitizer is not a substitute for a good hand washing regime, but is very useful in areas where soap and water is not available but where staff are having physical contact with children. The DfE’s advice is:

“Soap and water, and regular handwashing for at least 20 seconds, is the best way of staying safe. Handwashing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available, or the situation makes using soap less feasible (for example, when outside), but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.”

**Department for Education: Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing social distancing in education and childcare settings** Updated 7 April 2020(now removed)

Hand sanitizer dispensers are placed in the following locations:

* At the entrance to school (both sides of the door)
* All Classrooms
* The PE hall (near the door to the corridor)
* The Dining Hall (near the door to the corridor)
* The EYFS playground (near the door to EYFS1)
* The KS1 playground (near the door to Class 1).

Children will need supervising closely in these areas at all times as they could access the dispensers if they manage to get out the classrooms (this is particularly  the case for the sanitizer in the Dining Hall as there is no magnetic lock on the door to this hall).  The hand sanitizer on the playgrounds is too high for the younger children to reach. All staff members have been provided with their own personal hand sanitizer. These can be refilled by taking them to Sylvia.

**Supporting the children to wash their hands**

* Children should wash their hands more frequently than usual
* You must ensure the children’s hands are washed with soap and water very regularly and for 20 seconds each time. The times children’s hands should be washed are:
  + as they arrive at school
  + after they have been to the toilet
  + before snack time
  + before dinner time
  + after break times
  + after PE or other sporting sessions
  + before preparing any food
  + before leaving school
  + if they have been seen to put their hands in their mouth or touched their face
  + after they have coughed, sneezed or blown their nose

Staff should sing songs and rhymes to help encourage children to wash their hands. Children should be encouraged to learn good handwashing practice through songs, games and repetition throughout the day.