



## The media and fake news social story

The news seems to be taking over our lives at the moment and everything that they are reporting on is about the Coronavirus and the impact that this is having on us all. Lockdown is still in place, our school is still closed and you still cannot see your friends. We know that this is a tough time for you and that everything may feel strange and you may even get very bored, but we all have to follow the rules and the guidance if we want to get back to 'normal' life as quick as we can.

Now as we have said, the news is only reporting about the Coronavirus at the moment and this can be quite scary to watch as the majority of it is about the number of people who are sick in hospital or who are dying. A lot of the news coverage is also blaming the Government and causes a lot of arguments to take place live on TV or written on the internet.

But what we have to remember is that the media sometimes like to dramatise situations, this means that they sometimes like to blame people and this can then make people scared of what is going on. This is a very scary time and we are not saying that it is not, but some things that you will not see in the media is the number of people who have recovered from the Coronavirus in the UK and in the world.

If you look at the website <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> it shows you the number of cases in the world, those who have died and those who have recovered. Looking at the world figures it shows that there have been 3,147,626 cases of Coronavirus. If we then look at the recovery rate from the Coronavirus, it shows that 961,871 people have recovered so far. This means that 30% of people who have had the virus have recovered compared to 7% of people who have died so far. This is a huge difference and something to have hope of.

It is also important that you make sure that the news that you are reading is well informed and that it is also factually correct. Today everyone can be a journalist and post what they want online and they can often say exactly what they want. Some news, called 'fake news' is used by people to scare others in society into believing things or to help them build up supporters for what they are saying. This can be dangerous as it can lead people to believe the information and act upon it, which can be even more dangerous than the virus. If you google something or see a link to something, always check that it comes from a reliable source and do not click on links that do not look real, they could be a scam.

It is important that you follow official UK Government advice as advice from other countries and their leaders is not informed by our own scientists here in the UK. The Government has a team of really clever scientists who are working really hard to help us get back to normal by providing them with advice and guidance that is based on current science.

Although this is a difficult time, you also need to think about this time as providing you with something positive, not since World War 2 have young people been asked to do something so drastic to save lives and stay safe. You are the next generation and you will come out of this stronger than many generations before you. You will learn skills, compassion, love, grief and resilience. These skills will make you who you are in the future and you will be in a much stronger position than our generation.

We do know though that some people will struggle at this time and we have a safeguarding team here in school who will support you. They can be contacted by emailing them at [sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk).

We need to have faith in our amazing NHS and the work that they are doing and we also have to follow the Government advice about staying at home and only going out when it is essential.

Remember you can keep up to date with what is happening in school by going to our website, [www.notredameliverpool.com](http://www.notredameliverpool.com) and also on our twitter feed [@NDEvertonValley](https://twitter.com/NDEvertonValley)