

SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher:
M.Elliott (B.Ed. Hons, NPQH)
Chantry Road
Moseley
Birmingham B13 8DW
Telephone: 0121 464 5868
Fax: 0121 464 5046
Email: enquiry@stjonmon.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.stjonmon.bham.sch.uk
Twitter: @SSJohnMonicas



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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a restful, relaxing and a peaceful Christmas and New Year and you had the opportunity to spend some quality time with your families.

We welcome our children and families back this term, in what continues to be challenging times for us all. Unfortunately, I will be working from home for the remainder of this week, having received a positive Covid-19 test result myself. There are other members of teaching and support staff having to do the same and we ask our school community to continue to support us, in what will likely be difficult and testing term.

This letter is a reminder of some of the precautions that we will be taking, like other schools across the country, to combat the spread of Covid.

If your child is symptomatic, has a high temperature, new or continuous cough or has loss/change to sense of taste or smell, please ensure you book a PCR, and call to report your child absent. If your child has other symptoms including a sore throat, cold, headache, upset stomach, aches and pains, please use lateral flow tests (**guidelines say that lateral flow tests may be used on primary aged pupils**) and consider taking them for a PCR, as these are also recognised symptoms, particularly with the **new Omicron variant**. Click [Here](#) for symptoms.

Pupils should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do click [Here](#) They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive lateral flow or PCR test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19.

We are aware there are some issues with booking PCR tests in local areas. Please continue to try and book these if required, and keep school informed. The government have changed the self-isolation guidance for positive cases, individuals have to isolate for 10 full days (from either the day after the symptoms began, or the day the test was taken if asymptomatic). If your child is no longer showing symptoms they are able to take a lateral flow test on day 6 and day 7, if these are both negative, they are able to return to school after the second negative test on day 8.

If your child is under 18 years and 6 months, they are not legally required to self-isolate as a close contact, but would strongly be advised to take a rapid LFD test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since the last contact

with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms.

As a school, we are continuing to facilitate good ventilation, by opening classroom doors and windows and using CO2 monitors. We therefore would ask pupils to wear a plain white t-shirt under their school shirt to ensure they remain warm enough. Please note all pupils should now be in winter uniform with white shirt and tie (not polo shirt). The Cleaning regime, regular handwashing and use of hand gel has also increased.

At the minute, we are looking to reduce large gatherings in school and opt for a smaller number of classes attending weekly events such as Mass and Assembly, on a rota basis. Unfortunately, at present, with infection rates being over 1,000 in the local area, we will be unable to invite parents into Mass or any other planned face-to-face workshops/meetings. We also ask that you email or phone the school office, unless it is urgent and you need to speak face-to-face to a member of the office staff.

We will be continually monitoring the situation and responding to government guidelines for schools. All of which, we will continue to keep you updated.

We thank you for your continued support in keeping our children, staff and whole school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs M Elliott', written in a cursive style.

Mrs. M. Elliott

Head Teacher