



# St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School

Lingfield Road, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 7PL

Telephone No : 01642 - 580850 / 570697

Fax No : 01642 – 570697

[www.stpatricksfairfield.org.uk](http://www.stpatricksfairfield.org.uk)

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January, the government have asked that all adults who work in schools should be tested routinely twice a week for Coronavirus even if they show no symptoms. This is a crucial part of keeping staff, children and families safe.

It is estimated that a third of people who carry Coronavirus have no symptoms. People who have no symptoms can still pass the virus to other people. Asymptomatic testing allows for people, their close contacts and households (including support bubbles) who might be carrying symptoms but are unaware of it to isolate at home in exactly the same way as people who carry symptoms need to do. This means that the spread of coronavirus can be slowed down even further.

I am writing to let you know that if a staff member tests positive then I will have to close their bubble/POD for 10 days and your child will need to isolate in line with local advice for that period.

It is now more likely that a closure could take place because more people are being tested and some could be carrying the virus. Although closures can be frustrating, it will help to keep staff, children and families safe from the spread of coronavirus.

If/when I have to close a bubble it is likely to be at very short notice. We will inform parents as soon as possible using the ParentPay.

I know you will all be very supportive but, as you make your contingency plans for a possible POD closure, can I please ask that to minimise disruption to learning for your child you ensure you have devices ready to access online lessons and all passwords and log-ins to hand.

If a POD closes, the isolation for your child will mean (taken from Stockton Borough Council Advice)

*Not leaving the house for any reason, apart from going out to get a test. You can't have visitors and must not leave the house for things like shopping or exercise.*

**A negative test during this time does not mean the self isolation can end.**

Many thanks in anticipation of your support during this time – as always we are here for any questions you might have

Stay safe and God bless  
Mr S Williams



All members of the St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School share a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and have a duty to follow the procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and take appropriate action if they have concerns about a child's welfare. Please find link to Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board's Procedures (<http://www.teescpp.org.uk>)