

23 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You will have already read several letters sent out about positive COVID tests in school that have resulted in pupils being sent home for a period of time.

There are two letters from Public Health England that I must send following confirmation of a positive test and I request that when you receive one of these letters that you [please read these letters carefully](#).

- The first letter is only to the affected year group detailing the period of time that pupils must self-isolate. You **must** take the action outlined in this letter.
- The second letter is to **all other year groups**, simply to keep you informed. If you receive this letter, there is no action that you need to take. Please do not telephone school if you receive this letter, it is simply for information.

With respect to signs of illness that your child may be showing, could I implore parents/carers to keep your child off school if they show any of the symptoms of COVID-19. It is much better to be overly cautious and keep them off school than to be unsure and send them in, especially when the result could be a whole year group having to self-isolate for a period of time. In normal times I would be saying the opposite, but unfortunately we do not live in normal times at the moment, so even if you have the slightest doubt that your child could be symptomatic, **please keep them off school**. If you are in doubt, please see the guidance sheet attached. There is also information on our school website under the 'Parents/Letters' section and all COVID related correspondence will also be stored here.

It is inevitable that we will have periods of pupil self-isolation this year, therefore could I ask that parents/carers stress to their child that behaviour must be exemplary when engaging in 'live lessons' via Microsoft Teams. We have already had a small number of pupils deliberately interrupting live lessons and this will not be tolerated. Those pupils who prevent the learning of others will be sanctioned.

Please note: From tomorrow (Thursday 24 September 2020), face-coverings **must be worn** by pupils and staff when moving around the school site (outside of classrooms), ie on corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This action is necessary following a communication from the Director of Public Health for Wigan, Professor Kate Arden as Wigan has seen a spike in the infection rate over the last week. Please ensure that your child arrives with a facemask from tomorrow and stress to them that they must wear it on corridors and communal areas in school.

I can assure you that everyone at the school are working at full capacity to provide the best education possible for your child in these very challenging circumstances. I would like to thank you for your continued support, which is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher



**St Edmund Arrowsmith
Catholic High School**
Prepare the way of the Lord

Helpful Information on what to do if your child is unwell

Please may we respectfully remind you that it is vitally important to keep school informed if you are taking your child for a Covid-19 test and awaiting results.

This will help us to monitor potential cases and plan for any action required.

Therefore, please contact school on your child's **first day of absence** with the following information:-

Symptoms that your child is displaying

When they started being ill, this may not necessarily be Covid symptoms, but it will help us to code your child's absence correctly in the register.

If you plan to take your child to be tested

Please confirm the date the test is booked for. You may need to update us of this if you decide during the absence if symptoms worsen.

Results

Please contact us to confirm the results of any tests **PRIOR** to returning to school. We do not need to see evidence, but a courtesy call is required. This will help to reduce the burden on our office staff who are spending time ringing parents to confirm eligibility to return to school.

I am sure you will appreciate it is a difficult and uncertain time however we rely on the support of our parents to keep school informed of your child's health and well-being.

The date of return for unwell pupils is always based on **10 days from the onset of symptoms**, other pupils isolating it is 14 days. The letter provided by school will confirm the expected date of return to school if your child is sent home.

Self-isolating is the way to prevent the spread of this disease and it is important your child remains at home during their isolation period. During this period if you child displays any symptoms you should update school immediately as their end date for isolation may change.

Detailed guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>