



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed  
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Archdiocese of  
Birmingham

21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers



On Wednesday (19 January), the Prime Minister gave a statement to parliament on the progress against the Omicron variant and the review of the Plan B measures [The Prime Ministers statement](#)

The Department for Education will remove national guidance on the use of face coverings in communal areas from 27 January. As a school our staff are now given the choice regarding wearing face coverings when moving around the school and at the school gate. With regard to the school gate, I urge you to consider mask wearing as an ongoing precaution however, we cannot enforce this. We will still insist that any parent entering the school wears a face covering please. COVID has not gone away, I want to reassure you that we will continue to work hard to do everything we can to ensure that all of our children and staff are supported and remain safe in school.

We do still have cases in school but they are not at a concerning level. As I have said before, our rigour to maintain high levels of hygiene has always been a priority and this will continue. Staff are still carrying out regular LFT tests which they report to the Local Authority and via the 'report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result' on the Gov.uk website. I am keeping an eye on all new guidance and will respond to any recommendations from the local Directors of Public Health as required. Everything is viewed as temporary and we have to deal with the situation within our own setting to judge the need to any extra precautions.

We are still required to keep classrooms well ventilated so do ensure that your children have extra layers to keep them warm. Staggered starts as you know will remain at St Joseph's; please ensure that your child is on time.

The Government continues to be clear on the critical importance of not disrupting the education of children and young people and will prioritise keeping all education and childcare settings open.

School attendance remains mandatory and enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. This week I attended an Attendance network meeting which stressed the importance of our partnership role with yourselves to ensure that all children are in school. I have emphasised in previous letters the importance of being in school and being on time.

We track and monitor attendance closely; every child needs to have attendance rates over 94%. That is the national expectation. I have been informed that we now need to inform the





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Local Authority of any child who has attendance below 90%, any regular absences and patterns and any absences over 10 consecutive days. If there is a valid reason for a long absence ie following an operation, it will still need to be reported but in those cases nothing will happen. The local authority are supporting schools in supporting you and your family to sustain a consistent daily education for your child. You know that if you have any worries or concerns, talk to us, we are here to help.

Thank you to those parents who attended my first Zoom meeting of 2022. The next one is next Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the earlier time of 9.30am. Invites will be sent as usual.

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury  
Headteacher

