



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Louise Bury B. Ed
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29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers



Yet again, we are faced with more uncertainty with new measures being issued from tomorrow in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. As a school, we will continue to be vigilant and I will be reviewing the school's risk assessment this week to ensure that we are maintaining the right and appropriate precautions. My immediate response is to insist that from tomorrow:

- **ALL parents are to wear a face covering when collecting from school and entering the school building.**
- **Please ensure that you move away quickly when you have dropped off or collected your child from school**
- **Maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.**

Teachers and support staff will be wearing face coverings at the gate again and will not be prepared to speak to a parent who is not wearing a face covering. This pandemic has not gone away and we want to ensure that St Joseph's continues to move forward safely ensuring continuity for all children's education and protection for all.

The guidance around absence for positive cases remains and I include reminders below:

- If your child shows any symptoms, you **MUST** arrange for them to have a PCR test and keep them at home until the result is received.
- Positive PCR test results means that your child remains at home for the required 10 days.
- **The isolation period is now 10 days from the date of symptoms or test if no symptoms.**
- If a member of your family has a PCR test, your child can still come to school while they await the result but can I urge you to lateral flow test your child daily and if at all concerned arrange a PCR. (They must remain at home then until the result).
- If a member of your family tests positive then you must arrange for a PCR for your child and monitor them closely. If the PCR is negative, they can come to school but I recommend that you lateral flow test them at least every couple of days.
- With regard to any positive cases in school; close contacts will be called in line with guidance received from Local Outreach Team and parents will be asked to arrange a PCR for their child.





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I will keep you updated if anything changes. Our cases in school are low at present and there has been no cause to increase our precautions.

If your child is off for 10 days, remote learning is offered if your child is well enough. You must email the class teacher; there will be a holding activity for day 1 and then after that the required curriculum remote teaching will begin. We monitor the children accessing this as we have always done and will contact those children who are off if no contact with the class teacher has been made.

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Staff continue to test twice a week and a vigilant record is kept of results to evidence this. I am very proud of the way that we are working as a school and want to continue to look forward to what we have planned for your children to celebrate this most special time of the year.

I thank you in advance for your understanding and support with all that we are doing here at school and look forward to seeing many of you at my 10.00am Zoom on Friday. Please remember Friday is 'Rainbow' non-uniform and bring a hamper prize in your class colour as per Friends' reminder sent home last Thursday.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed week

Yours in faith and partnership

Mrs Louise Bury
Headteacher

