

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School



'Jesus holds my hand and guides me on my way'

14th September 2020

COVID-19 General Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the autumn term, there may well be reasons for children and adults within school to be tested for COVID-19. The first positive case of COVID-19 has been brought to my attention today and I am taking this opportunity to reassure you all that we will be ensuring the continued safety of all throughout this term. This will have an impact on individuals and class bubbles within year groups. It is vital that we know who has been in contact with people who test positive so that we can inform Test and Trace for local community safety as well as the safety of us all. If, at any point, your child is within a bubble that has a positive case of COVID-19 you will receive a letter informing you about this.

Being in contact with someone with COVID-19 does not automatically mean you will contract the virus. Being aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 are essential so that you can book a test online as soon as the first sign of a symptom develops. You should look for any of the following symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- Fever (a temperature of 37.8 degrees or higher)
- Loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you or your child develop these symptoms, however mild, at any point, stay at home for 10 days from when your symptoms have started. It is essential that you inform school as soon as you possibly can.

If your child needs to self-isolate for 14 days from the point of last contact with the person who has had a positive COVID-19 case, they will be supported with home learning through the online system Education City.

Children becoming unwell in school:

As you will appreciate, before the COVID-19 situation, a small number of children feel poorly whilst in school and need to go home as they are too unwell to stay in school. Our first aid team still have the protocols in place to support students who feel poorly. However, please can I reinforce that if your child is displaying the symptoms below in school we are required to send them home to be tested and isolate along with the whole household.

It is impossible for school staff to differentiate between a child with a usual cough/cold/temperature with a child who has COVID-19 symptoms. Therefore, the guidance states children should be sent home to be tested as a precaution. Whilst we await the results of a suspect case, individuals in school who have been in contact with that child do not need to self-isolate but need to be mindful and avoid individuals who are at high-risk of COVID-19 whilst taking extra care in practicing social distancing, good hygiene and in watching out for symptoms.

If your child's result is negative and they are free of the symptoms for 48 hours and no longer feel unwell, they can return to school as long as they are not isolating due to being a contact of other symptomatic household member or positive case. If the test is a positive result, the NHS Test and Trace Services will be in touch with all contacts.

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Subsequently, you may receive a message from time to time saying that your child has been in close contact with a child/person who is unwell and has been sent home to be home tested. Please try not to be alarmed, it is most likely a precaution but we are required to share this information with you.

If you need to seek medical advice:

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening. If it's not an emergency, contact NHS 111 online.

If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111.

If it is an emergency and you need to call an ambulance, dial 999 and inform the call handler or operator that you have coronavirus (COVID-19).

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the main office via phone, Parentapp or email to share your concern or query. We are doing all we can to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and it will only be by working together, that we will.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M O'Brien

Deputy Headteacher

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