

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Mrs S Clarke
Headteacher

23rd November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's that time of year when we are faced with many winter illnesses, which, combined with the ever real and present risk of Covid, makes day to day life generally more difficult for everyone. We would like to send a reminder to all parents/carers of the restrictions we have in school currently. We would also like to assure you that when we ask parents to collect their children from school if they present with any symptoms of Covid, we do this in the interests of our whole school and wider community. We would not like to get this far though the term and have an 'outbreak', which will potentially cause more disruption for all in the long term.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- A high temperature
 - A new, continuous cough
 - A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
1. **Children/adults displaying symptoms of Covid or deemed close contact with positive case:** in-line with our risk assessment, we would ask that any child/adult in school displaying any symptoms of Covid, or are deemed a close contact of a positive case, we would recommend a PCR test in-line with government advice. We would ask that this result is shared with school at stbs@stbs.bwcet.com so we can help NHS test and trace wherever positive cases arise. **When children do display symptoms in school, we will ask parents to collect their children in order that they can have a PCR test.**
 2. **Face coverings:** staff have the option to wear face coverings in communal areas within school and when working closely with children if they feel comfortable with this. We would also ask that parents wear face coverings wherever possible when coming on to the school yard.
 3. **Social distancing:** we would ask that parents maintain social distancing when dropping off/collecting your children and exit the premises quickly to avoid congestion at key points of the school day. We appreciate that there is limited access into/out of school – but if we work together, we can hopefully avoid having to implement a one way system in/out of school and/or different exits for different classes.
 4. **Educational visits:** we will not be scheduling any trips/visits this half term to minimise time spent on buses/transport and or in different public locations and therefore exposure to potential infection.
 5. **Visitors to the school:** we are trying to minimise visitors to the school and would therefore ask that parents do not come into the school office without an appointment unless there is an absolute emergency. Any visitors coming into school to facilitate workshops and support children will be expected to adhere to our social distancing measures.
 6. **Additional hygiene:** staff have reminded children and will continue to remind them of the importance of sanitising hands and washing them thoroughly – using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' regime.

We hope that the points outlined above will help in continuing to keep our children and members of our whole school community as safe as possible during these uncertain times and hope that as parents you will continue to support us as you have done so.

With every best wish as always,

Mrs Clarke
Headteacher