

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY.

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Headteacher: Mrs T Lane



11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have no doubt heard in recent days that the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases is on the rise across the UK with several schools having to close in our area – either partially or in full.

This is clearly a very worrying time for us all and I want to reassure you that we remain committed to making sure that we are doing everything we can to stay open for our children through this pandemic. However, in order to achieve this, we must **work together to ensure our risk assessments are fully adhered to at all times.** Luckily, we haven't had any confirmed cases of coronavirus amongst our pupils or staff so far and we need to work together to maintain this.

Thank you to the large majority of parents who are arriving on time at drop off and pick up times.

Thank you for collecting only your own child wherever possible.

Thank you for only sending one adult to drop off and pick up your children.

Thank you to those arriving by car for waiting in your car if you arrive early to drop off or pick up.

Thank you for **not** holding other parents up by talking to the teacher on the door instead calling school to talk to them when you need to.

Thank you for following the one way system.

If children or a member of your household are unwell...

- 1. It is vital to the safety of our school community that you do not send your child to school if they or someone in your household is displaying one or more of the main symptoms of coronavirus:
 - A high temperature or fever you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
 - A new, continuous cough
 - A loss or change of taste or smell
- If your child or another member of your household has any of the above symptoms, or has had a positive test for Covid, they must self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.
- 3. If a child in school shows symptoms of Covid and they also have any brothers or sisters in school, parents must collect the symptomatic child and their brothers and sisters.
- 4. We ask that you get a test for the symptomatic person and let school know the result as soon as possible. If the test result is negative, the family can return to normal if they feel well.
- 5. If the test is positive, you must continue to isolate and follow the track and trace guidelines.
- 6. We know that many children will become unwell with illnesses that are not coronavirus and that colds and runny noses are prevalent at this time of year. However, in line with government guidance, any child in school who has one of the coronavirus symptoms in school will be looked after by an adult in our isolation room in school and you will be asked to collect them and their siblings immediately. We will advise you to follow the same procedures outlined above. Please ensure you are contactable at all times

during the school day in case we need you to collect your child – we are unable to send your child home with anyone from outside of your household.

7. To keep our community safe, we must all follow government guidance outside of school too and not gather in groups of more than 6 people from Monday 14th September.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation with this. Please contact the school office if you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Lane Headteacher

Booking a Test:

Directions on how to get a home testing kit and how to register, carry out and return the kit can be found on the websites below; there are also videos on this site to show you how to carry out a test.

If you can't get a test when you first try, keep trying as they continue to release tests throughout the day:

https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name

or

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested

or

For guidance on responding to **coronavirus in children**, please follow the link at: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/

Instructional video for parents/carers on swabbing children:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaw8DsF2Igc

- If you find accessing the internet difficult or don't have internet access you can telephone 119 for help in booking a test.
- Please contact https://111.nhs.uk/COVID-19 or call 111 if at any point symptoms get worse