



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy

"Lord be thy word my rule."

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Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to thank you for all your support this year. I do hope you appreciate that we have tried to make things as normal as possible for you and your children. It has been great to see the nativity production and some of the children attending trips. Whilst I acknowledge that we are not there yet we can't wait for the return to full normality.

Part of that journey requires us to continue with our contingency arrangements after the break. These include;

1. Parents will not be permitted into school for any assemblies or other events.
2. Assemblies and other large gatherings of children will be done remotely.
3. The children will continue eating lunch in their classrooms.
4. Staff will wear face coverings when out on the yard with parents.
5. We are advising parents to wear face coverings when on school premises (when dropping and collecting children- Please note this is only advice and will not be enforced.)

I wish to reassure you that these arrangements will be reviewed weekly to ensure, where possible, we can remove any restrictions that we have in place. As always we have followed Government advice throughout and will continue to do so.

Our parents have been remarkable throughout the whole pandemic. Your support has been nothing but outstanding and I truly thank you for supporting us and allowing us to do the best we can to ensure your children's education is not interrupted. We are blessed to have such supportive parents.

New rules now state, if you are contacted by test and trace and identified as a close contact you must test using lateral flow tests daily (for 7 days) to ensure the growth in cases is contained. I would also strongly encourage you to continue testing twice a week and to take up the offer of vaccines if eligible to keep yourselves and your children safe. Please remember if you have any of the main symptoms of Covid (below) you must isolate and arrange to have a PCR test.

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Finally, I would like to remind you that the school reopens on Tuesday 4th January 2022. If I don't see you I wish you a very Merry and Holy Christmas. I do hope you find the time to attend mass and celebrate this wonderful season with your children. Please keep safe and enjoy this time with family.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Rigby
Principal
