



The Newman Catholic Collegiate



# St. John the Evangelist Catholic Academy

*"Lord be thy word my rule."*

Principal: Mrs H. Rigby BSc(Hons), PGCE, NPQH  
The Avenue, Kidsgrove, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 1AE  
Telephone: 01782 987200  
Email: office@stjohnskidsgrove.org.uk

---

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

---

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you have all had a good Christmas break and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I sincerely hope this New Year will bring us free from restrictions and allow us to focus on providing the best possible education for all of our children. I am sure you have seen in the press that things are likely to be very tough in schools for the next month at least. Due to this I am asking that you support us as you have always done to ensure we are able to continue to offer face to face education.

To do this I am writing to ask you to ensure that you follow all the guidance that we send. I am well aware that this guidance changes frequently and so if unsure please just ask the school office.

I wrote to you before the Christmas break to advise you of some measures we will continue to have in place. 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 return to eating lunch in their classrooms.
4. Staff will wear face coverings when out on the yard with parents.
5. We are asking parents to wear face coverings when on school premises (when dropping and collecting children- Whist we cannot enforce this it would be great if you support us.)

Please remember, if you have any of the main symptoms of Covid (below) you must isolate and arrange to have a PCR test. It is most important that you **DO NOT** send children to school with these symptoms until a negative PCR result has been obtained or you have completed your isolation period.

- **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.

If your child starts to display any of the above symptoms in school, we will send them home. Please support us when we send them home and book a PCR test. Please remember if they display the above symptoms they must go for a PCR test **NOT** a LFT.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, some of the other guidance has now changed. Please read the below carefully. Once again if you are unsure please contact the school office.

---

### **If your child (all ages) catches Covid-19**

Once your child has received a positive result (either through a LFT or PCR test) please contact the school and isolate. If the test was a LFT you should book a confirmatory PCR test immediately. If it was through a PCR test, test and trace will guide you on the isolation period. New guidance states that on day 6 of the isolation you can do a LFT. If negative you need to do another LFT test 24 hrs later (day 7). If this test is also negative and they don't have a temperature your child can return to school on day 8. If either of the LFT tests were positive, you must continue to isolate for 10 full days and can return to school on the 11<sup>th</sup> day.

### **Your child has been identified as a close contact by test and trace**

If test and trace contact you to say your child has been a close contact they will be expected to isolate. To avoid isolation, your child can complete daily LFTs for 7 days. If these tests all remain negative, then your child can avoid isolation and continue to attend school. If your child is under the age of 5 they do not need to do daily tests and can continue to attend school.

### **Someone in your household tests positive for Covid-19**

If someone in your child's household tests positive they must self-isolate and book a PCR test (even if your child is younger than 5). In addition, from the day you find out that there is a positive case your child, if aged 5 or above should carry out daily LFTs for 7 days. If the PCR test comes back negative and the LFT results are negative, then your child can return to school continuing to complete the full 7 days of LFTs. We are also asking that on day 4 or 5 you get a further PCR test (even if your child is younger than 5).

### **Remote Learning**

We are committed to ensuring that children miss as little of their education as possible. If they are isolating for any reason, then within 48 hrs of contacting the school they will have access to full remote learning as detailed in our remote learning policy. Whilst we say this is within 48 hrs, usually we are able to sort this on the same day. As has always been the case, if you do not have access to technology to access the remote learning at home, please let the school office know and we will provide this as soon as possible.

### **Staffing**

As a school we are committed to offering face to face teaching and will do all we can to ensure this is the case. This may mean that we have to move some staff around so we have enough staff to teach all classes in school. To keep all our classes open we must protect our staff as much as possible and so it is vital that all parents follow the guidance we have detailed above. If you need to speak to the staff, please email the school office who will pass messages on.

I am well aware that this term is going to be very challenging and so once again ask for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Rigby  
Principal

---