



CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year. I hope you and your families had a happy Christmas. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the government announcements that are pertinent to our school and reassure you as to the measures we are taking.

1. Staff wear face coverings in communal areas inside and outside school – face coverings may be worn in some lessons by staff. Visitors to school are restricted and are required to wear a face covering.
2. Pupils in Year 6 may wear a face covering if their parent wishes them to. Younger pupils are not encouraged to wear face coverings.
3. Air quality is monitored in classrooms using CO2 monitors and all classrooms and areas are well ventilated at all times - pupils are encouraged to wear extra layers to keep warm in colder weather.
4. All staff are testing with lateral flow tests at least twice weekly and we encourage all families to order lateral flow kits and test children at least twice a week before coming into school - ideally a Monday and Wednesday morning at 7am. All visitors are asked to do a LFD test before coming on site.
5. Year group bubbles will be maintained and phase group activities have been postponed - all outside trips have been postponed this month also.
6. Hygiene measures continue to be rigorous - including hand washing and cleaning regimes.

Changes to testing and self-isolation

1. Testing – you must self-isolate as soon as you develop Covid symptoms or when you receive a positive test result. From 11 January, people without symptoms who receive a positive result from a home testing (LFD) kit will no longer have to take a lab based (PCR) test to confirm the results. You still need to get a PCR test if you develop symptoms.
2. Please email the school covid email if your child is symptomatic or has a positive test: covid@ctkcps.com

3. Self-Isolation – the rules have now changed and the diagram below explains the new process. Day 0 is the day you develop symptoms or receive a positive test. You can start home testing on day 6. If you receive two negative results 24 hours apart then you can stop self-isolating after the second test. So, if the tests are taken before school on the morning of day 6 and 7 and are both negative, your child can return to school on day 7.
4. Close contacts – Anyone fully vaccinated or below 18 ½ years can take a daily LFD test for 7 days and continue to attend school as usual unless they test positive or develop Covid symptoms. Whilst it is no longer the school's responsibility to carry out contact tracing, where there are more than five cases in a group that may have mixed closely, we will write to parents of affected children advising them to test daily for 7 days.
5. Pupils who need to self-isolate who are asymptomatic and feel well will be expected to access remote home learning. The teachers will communicate to set this up.

Measures to keep as many pupils in school as possible

Our priority is to keep your children in school. It is likely that we will face some challenges related to Covid over the next few weeks, this week alone we have been seen staff and pupil absence due to COVID. If a class teacher is absent, we will initially use our bank of supply teachers and cover supervisors to cover absent staff. If there are no staff available for cover then that class, as a last resort, will be moved to remote learning

If a large and rapidly increasing number of pupils and staff are absent from a particular year group, it may be that Public Health Dorset and BCP would consult with the school regarding sending that year group home for a period of time. Again, this is a process we would only use as a last resort.

How parents and carers can support the school

The number of positive COVID cases within BCP remains very high. We need the full support of our community to keep our school running as effectively as possible. Please continue to do what the vast majority of you have done since the start of the pandemic – to follow the guidance. In particular:

1. If your child has any Covid symptoms – cough, loss/change to taste/smell, high temperature – keep them at home and book a PCR test.
2. Parents wear a face covering on site and leave site promptly - do not gather on pavements outside school.
3. All families do regular lateral flow testing and order kits from their chemist.

This letter only contains a summary of the guidance. Please click on the following link for more information <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-whatto-do/>

Our updated Risk Assessment is also on our website for you to look at. If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Clare Tickel

Headteacher

