



CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to school following the half term break. Infection rates in the South West local authority are high and under these conditions the rise is triggering thresholds for additional action in schools to limit transmission. Cases remain high in our communities, not only in school aged children but increasingly in adults too.

Over the break we received four confirmed positive Covid-19 cases from within the Christ the King School community. We are keen to ensure that we do not have an outbreak at Christ the King School and are working with BCP and Dorset to ensure we do everything we can to protect our community.

Schools, Early Years and educational settings in BCP and Dorset have been given scope to enhance the measures we use to protect children and staff from Covid during the coming weeks.

Why are we being asked to consider enhancing measures?

- In the south west and pan-Dorset there is agreement that more measures need to be at the disposal of schools and settings following the case load in half term one, which saw many schools having outbreaks and a rise in cases in school age children
- Case rates in those aged 11-16 year olds are a particular concern, although we have seen cases in EY & primary phase too
- Whilst the immediate health risks of COVID-19 infection to children and young people are low; the present high case numbers harms children and young people by their missing or having disrupted education and is also disrupting the vaccination programme for older pupils

The impact of the measures will be reviewed and further advice will be provided to schools on any action to take after the 14 day period.

Aims of measures:

Protect population health and prevent widespread transmission of COVID-19

1. Support schools/early years settings to stay open and maximise access to education, learning and mental health

2. Provide advice and consistency for schools across the region

What measures will our school/setting use?

At Christ the King School enhanced measures include:

- a. Continued good infection prevention control (ventilation/touch point cleaning etc)
- b. Promote the effectiveness of vaccination as best protection for all
- c. Continued efforts on testing – examples include:
 - Promotion of twice weekly asymptomatic testing for all pupils – before school on a Monday and towards the end of the week.
 - Given high prevalence to recommend daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace while individuals await PCR results.
 - Asking anyone who is a close contact in school or a household contact of a confirmed case to take daily LFD tests whilst waiting for PCR result
 - If unwell stay at home. If negative for COVID individuals should still wait until 24 hours post fever to go back into a setting. Colds/non COVID symptoms are circulating but in the first instance symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and if positive, carry out isolation and testing - even if others in setting/group have tested negative for symptoms.
- d. Introduction of face coverings for staff and adult visitors in communal areas e.g. corridors when movement occurs between lessons (secondary/college settings). We also ask parents to wear face coverings at pick up / drop off times.
- e.
- f. Reintroducing/reinforcing **social distancing** measures. This will include reinforcing distancing at the classroom doors – we ask all parents to remain beyond the yellow 2metre box when talking to the class teacher. We will also be reducing mixing between groups of pupils and adults as much as possible, including pausing whole school assemblies for the time being.

How can parents/carers help to support less infection in school?

- Encouraging **participation in twice weekly LFT** for household members. This can make a huge difference and has in some cases identified 25-20 asymptomatic cases per school per week. The link for ordering lateral flow tests is <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

- If a case arises in setting and you are notified, parents can support safer return to school by using LFT on their asymptomatic children, which many have been doing/asking if they can do this.
- Support school by observing isolation and getting PCR tests when asked
- Adhering to new requests for mitigation and encouraging eligible family members to get vaccinated/boosters
- Observe close contact advice and do not send children to schools with symptoms of the virus.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, please isolate and book a test, even if you have already taken a test. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

Further guidance on COVID-19 and what you need to do can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us to maintain a safe and healthy school environment for the next half term.

Yours sincerely

Clare Tickel

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Headteacher



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