



**St George's Catholic
Primary
Voluntary Academy**



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I hope you had a relaxing Christmas and managed to spend time with family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter as the content is applicable to us all in order to keep children at school.

Re: Covid 19 Update- Important Information

Testing – Lateral Flow Test:

With the Omicron variant being more prevalent, we are experiencing a higher volume of positive cases at school amongst pupils and staff. Staff are following safety measures by testing twice weekly on a lateral flow test and in order to keep everyone safe, we are requesting that pupils do the same.

We would recommend that pupils test every Sunday and Wednesday each week.

At times it is a challenge to manage levels of staff absence due to coronavirus. In the last week of term, we had 9 members of staff absent for this reason. The threat of staff shortages as well as a high volume of cases in a cluster, could result in a move to remote learning. Therefore we all have a part to play in community testing in order to keep the school running to full capacity and minimise the risk of spread of the virus.

Testing – PCR Test:

If your child is awaiting the results of a PCR test, he/ she MUST stay at home and isolate until they receive the results and NOT attend school.

Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection:

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 you are at significantly higher risk of becoming infected yourself.

Anyone aged 5 years and over, who has been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 and who is not legally required to self-isolate, is now strongly advised to take a rapid lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since their last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. If any of these LFD tests are positive they should self-isolate in order to protect other people. By daily testing in this way, pupils are still permitted to be at school in a safe manner.

Isolation Period:

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs D Monaghan

Headteacher



LET'S KEEP TESTING TO KEEP ONE ANOTHER SAFE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU