

Dear parents

Our pupils have made a superb start to the term; and are settled in their new classes. We look forward to a year at St. Mary of the Angels with much less disruption. Thank you for your support, as we ensure the school operates safely whilst also offering an excellent level of education and care.

Temporarily, we are working with the local Public Health board, as we have an outbreak of COVID 19. This has affected 16 pupils this term, including current cases; and 27 more children have been awaiting PCR tests, over the last 2 days. COVID 19 is also affecting our staff team at present.

Extra cleaning, ventilation and other measures have previously been indicated to you; and these are still ongoing. We are doing all we can in school to counter this outbreak.

I must ask you to take extra caution in sending your child to school if they have any COVID symptoms ***The main three are *a cough (even for a short time) *temperature * loss of taste and/or smell.***

However, more and more people are showing different symptoms with this variant. Cheshire West and Chester Council now advises residents to book a PCR test if you have other symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. These include

***headache**

***muscle or body aches/fatigue**

***runny nose, sore throat and nasal congestion**

***diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting**

***shortness of breath**

LFD home tests are useful – but far less reliable & accurate than the PCR tests which you book online, for a test centre. PCR tests must be booked for pupils' COVID symptoms and results must be forwarded to school. Please follow the experienced advice of our office staff; and take the test that is recommended, based on your child's condition. We may ask you to take regular LFDs.

A huge majority of our parents are following the rules; but we have heard of cases where such care has not been taken; for example, children attending parties whilst awaiting (positive) PCR results.

Please, please ensure that you follow safety and isolation rules, so the school can lower the numbers of COVID cases; and so that it is not passed to our families, to vulnerable people and elderly adults.

We are also seeing COVID passed through siblings in school; leading to a spread between classes; and so to try and stop this, we are temporarily asking for siblings to isolate where other siblings have tested positive, as a health and safety measure.

Thank you for being so supportive. If we all follow the rules, then we can reduce the high number of cases; and ensure that more drastic action does not have to be taken. Please feel free to wear masks on site, if you wish. Please also be assured that all children required to isolate due to COVID can still access their school learning remotely, on Google Classroom as usual.

Kind regards for now



Mr. Hughes, Headteacher.