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ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST



9th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

First of all, we just want to say a massive thank you to the community for your support with everything we are doing in school and all the new measures that have been put in place over the past few weeks.

As you can appreciate, we are always evaluating our measures and looking at what else we can do to further support our children, families and staff. With the new lockdown measures that began on Thursday 5th November, we have put together some FAQ's that we would like to provide answers to and hopefully you will find useful.

What is happening with schools during the lockdown?

School remains open and we will be continuing to provide a high-quality education for all children. We have worked hard over the last few months to ensure the curriculum across all subjects is in place for children to thrive. We all know the importance of children being in school every day both for their social and emotional needs, but also for their education and we will continue to do everything we possibly can to ensure this continues.

Can I drop my children off in the school playground?

We will continue to keep the same system in place that we have had all year. Staff will be on the external doors before school to welcome children in and at the end of the school day as they leave. We do however, ask that only one adult from each family enters the school playground to minimise any risk of transmission. We also encourage any families that can drop their children off at the main gate where a member of SLT is situated, to do so. This will also reduce the number of adults on the playground at any one time.

We also ask that children are to be collected by an adult within their own household or support bubble to again reduce the risk of transmission and in line with the new government guidance.

Do I have to wear face mask/covering?

We are still advising adults to wear face masks/coverings unless you are exempt on medical grounds. All staff will be wearing face masks outside too. We also advise that these are worn by all adults waiting outside before and after school.

Will after school clubs still go ahead?

Yes. We have ensured that all clubs running are kept within our school bubbles. We will therefore, continue to run our after-school clubs.

What if my child is having to isolate?

If your child has been told they must officially isolate, we have prepared our Google Classroom to enable children to access remote learning, which will be closely matched to the learning being taught in class. We will do our best to be as responsive on Google Classroom as possible, but as you can appreciate, staff will be in class themselves.

What if our class bubble has to isolate?

If you have been informed of a positive case which leads to your class bubble having to isolate, we again have Google Classroom set up ready for children to access remote learning. During this time, the teaching staff within that bubble will also be isolating and will be working from home to ensure learning can continue as close to normal as possible. Staff will be in regular contact via Google Classroom and phone and will ensure regular feedback is provided to your child.

Of course, as we continue to work together through this, there will be further guidance and things will undoubtedly continue to change slightly but as a school, we will continue to communicate any new, updated guidance with you on a regular basis.

Thank you,
Lee Spencer