



SAINT JOHN'S

Friday 11th March 2022

Dear Saint John's Families,

I hope that you are enjoying the slightly brighter weather: it definitely feels like Spring is here!

I wanted to write and inform you about the situation regarding our response now that we are "Living with Covid" and to outline the guidance (and rules!) for schools and families. We are pleased that, in line with the new government document, COVID-19 guidance for schools, schools are being allowed to return to normal. The children love being able to mix across year groups and to meet as a whole school for important moments, such as collective worship (assembly). We continue to maintain the best practices to ensure that we keep children and adults safe within school. These include:

- Ensure good hygiene for everyone (hand washing, catch it, bin it, kill it and the use of PPE in exceptional circumstances)
- Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
- Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
- Follow public health and local authority advice Children, staff and other adults should continue to follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. You are no longer required by law to self-isolate if you have COVID-19; however, advice is that pupils (and staff) should still stay at home and avoid contact with other people, for at least five days, as this helps reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others. Testing, track and trace and face coverings are no longer required within schools. We will continue to provide home learning via Tapestry or Dojo for children who need to self-isolate because they have tested positive - if they feel well enough to engage with it. The school risk assessment, outbreak management plan and remote learning policy can be accessed on the website.

Throughout the day, we check that children are feeling well and respond quickly to any child who shows any symptoms or signs of being unwell. We completely understand the concerns that families have regarding the pandemic and want to hear any concerns parents have around children coming into school.

However, it is essential that parents and carers are aware that attending school is

Where children flourish

mandatory and it is parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school. Saint John's has the responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence, as well as having the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct. Mrs Kimber and I will continue to contact families of those children who miss out by being absent from school – by phoning, writing to and meeting with parents to provide guidance and support to ensure all children come to school each day.

Any absence from school needs to be authorised by writing to me and completing a form which is available from the office. Please can I also be completely clear that holidays in term time cannot be authorised; this is not a personal decision but strict regulations given to me.

Every day that a child misses school means that they miss out on social engagement, personal development, physical exercise and academic learning! It impacts that particular day but also the days following the absence as children try to catch up on learning that they have missed. Please can I encourage all families to commit to bringing their children into school every day!

Kind regards,

Victoria Beevers