



St Saviour C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers

As I have said in recent newsletters and parent's letters, schools are getting information from the local authority and Bolton Public Health. I wanted to write to you to share and explain some of this guidance.

St Saviour's has had a large number of positive COVID-19 cases during the last half term, which resulted in us returning 2 classes to 'Bubbles'.

Advice from Bolton Primary Executive, Bolton Learning Alliance Executive, Bolton Council Public Health & Bolton Council Children's Services is saying we should use Schools COVID-19 operation guidance – Gov.UK (www.gov.uk) which explains the actions school leaders should take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in their school, and lists baseline control measures that should be in place in all settings:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

These have been maintained from our return in September. Classes are wiped down between lessons and are well ventilated.

Bolton are monitoring the levels of cases very closely. Childrens' groups form the higher numbers for infections, so other measures are being advised by the 4 bodies above as follows:

- Clear messaging and communications to encourage staff, visitors, students (year 7 & above) and their households to undertake twice-weekly lateral flow testing for people without symptoms
- Encourage the wearing of face coverings in communal areas for staff, visitors and students (year 7 and above)
- Household close contacts in KS2 and above who are exempt from isolation and are attending school are encouraged to carry out lateral flow testing for 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or positive test if asymptomatic) in the case in their household, and only attend school if their lateral flow test is negative. They are also encouraged to follow national guidance for all contacts and access a PCR test at COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days do not need to be tested.
- Consider opportunities to reduce indoor gathering and mixing between year groups, e.g. virtual assemblies
- Promote social distancing between staff within setting

In time it is hoped that vaccination of 12-15's will contribute to limiting transmission in settings, but no measure is perfect and a combination of simple measures may be needed over the winter period. In the first instance, it is recommended that education settings consider these additional baseline measures until the end of December.

Some of these points have been given to parents before. I have to say we are doing lateral flow tests 3 times a week and we are encouraging mask usage for all adults in school.

I am aware that this advice suggests having these measures up to Christmas. We felt we needed to take things a week at a time, so for some Christmas activities we still need to decide whether we can have audiences in school, or whether we should have virtual performances like last year.

The school is continuing to try and have a degree of normality. We are having events cancelled by organisers, today we found out the Lord Mayors Christmas Concert is cancelled. We are likely to have sports events cancelled this half term by organisers. We obviously have no control over such events.

I have given out dates for various activities in the coming 6 weeks, I will let parents know the arrangements as soon as we can.

It is still hoped that we will be able to have parents in school during the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely

I Southern
Headteacher