



Learn, Achieve, Love, Believe

St Michael with St Thomas Church of England Primary School

Executive Headteacher: Mrs K Tennyson

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COVID-19 Update

Happy New Year! Wishing you all good health and happiness for 2022 from the staff and myself. I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well, and follows a lovely Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to re-opening tomorrow, Monday 10th January, and in anticipation of the children's return, please find below the latest COVID-19 update.

COVID-19 testing prior to return to school

As a result of the high rates of COVID-19 in Halton and other surrounding areas, we are asking that all children and families undertake an LFD test at home tonight or tomorrow before returning to school.

Children identified as positive should not return to school, and inform school in the usual way (stmichaelwithstthomas@three-saints.org.uk or 0151 424 4234).

The rationale is to identify asymptomatic children/ household members who are COVID-19 positive to prevent the virus coming into school unknowingly. We would strongly encourage all children and families to take up the opportunity in an effort to protect face to face education as I am sure you all want to avoid remote learning as much as we do!

Self-isolation for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Symptomatic children should not attend school and should arrange to have a PCR test.

Symptoms include:

- a continuous cough
- loss of or change to taste and smell
- a high temperature.

The new Omicron variant reportedly presents a different set of symptoms, including fatigue, headaches, sore throat, and while these are not officially confirmed, if your child shows any of these symptoms, we would strongly encourage you to test your child in this instance too. If a child receives a positive LFD test, they must get a PCR test immediately. If the PCR is negative, they may return to school. Children identified as positive should not return to school.

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



(then it remains at 10 days). 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 and can return to school the following day. 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 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 school from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time. Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Remote Education

Our priority is to keep school open and children continuing to receive face-to-face education. However, as rates of COVID-19 remain high, the availability of staff may make this difficult. Where workforce issues arise, we will use existing teaching, temporary and support staff flexibly in our efforts to prevent classes/ school from closing. As pupils do not need to be kept in consistent groups, it may be necessary to combine classes. Where there is a need for remote education, this will continue to be available through Microsoft Teams. This will be a last resort, and will only be used in the short term until school is sufficiently staffed once again.

Breakfast & After School Club

Our Breakfast and After School Club will re-open on Monday 10th January as planned, with the children staying in key stage groups in the hall. The impact of the wrap around care on school will remain under constant review, and any decisions to temporarily close the clubs



will be communicated to parents/ carers at the earliest opportunity. This decision will not be taken lightly.

Our risk assessment has once again been reviewed and the update will be available on our website from Monday for any parents/ carers who wish to find out more about our protective measures. If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us. At the time of writing this letter, the government are reviewing various COVID-19 related practices, so further changes and updates are highly likely.

As always, thank you for your support with our back to school transition. I know you will do everything you can to keep our community safe and school open. Don't forget to wear face masks at drop off and collection and please adhere to social distancing guidance.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Slingsby
Headteacher

