



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

It has been an absolute pleasure this week to see the children return to school. The staff are delighted to have a full school again and we are all enjoying seeing the happy faces of the children around the school and in the playground.

The children have settled in well to their new classes and we have been particularly impressed by how well children are coming into the playground in the morning (Nursery and Reception children have been amazing at this!) If you have any concerns about your child settling into their new class please email the school office and the teacher will call to discuss your concerns with you.

Reminder of what to do if children display symptoms of COVID19

It is so important that parents / guardians follow the guidance regarding self-isolation as we do not want to put children, their families or staff at risk.

Children will not be able to attend school if they display one or more of the following symptoms.

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. Public Health England no longer state a specific temperature reading.
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss of/change in smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a child has **one of these symptoms (or more than one)**, both the child and the family who live in the home will need to self-isolate. The guidance now states that you must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms (previously this was 7 days) and those living in the home need to isolate for 14 days.

Please inform the school if your child has any of the symptoms and take your child for a test. This can be booked using the following website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and test results are usually given within 48 hours. Please let us know if you need help booking a test.

If a child's test is negative, please let us know and they can return to school when they are feeling better. If the test is positive then please inform the school immediately so that we can inform children and staff who have had close contact that they will need to self-isolate.

We will not share the names of children or staff who test positive.

Bubbles

One of the key protective measures for reducing the risk of transmission within school is the grouping of children into 'bubbles'. In our school each class is a bubble and the two

St John Evangelist Catholic School

Duncan Street
Islington
London N1 8BL

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office@stjohnevangelist.islington.sch.uk
www.stjohnevangelist.islington.sch.uk



Reception classes together are one bubble. Mixing between the bubbles is limited and the class bubbles do not mix at break times or for lessons. This means that if we were to have a positive case of coronavirus in one class, the other classes will not need to self-isolate.

Hand cleaning

Children are washing their hands frequently throughout the day. Please continue to practise good handwashing technique at home.

School Lunches

Due to the current restrictions on mixing bubbles, children are not able to eat in the hall. The kitchen are preparing a 'take away' lunch bag each day and the menu is available on the school website <http://www.stjohnevangelist.co.uk/lunches/> A Teaching Assistant brings the lunch bag to the classroom for the children and they eat inside at their tables. This has been challenging for some children who have found the change to eating in the classroom and the limited choice difficult. Please do let us know via email to the school office if your child is having difficulties with lunch so that we can let the class teacher and Teaching Assistant know to support them. It would be very helpful if parents could share the menu with children so that they know what to expect each day.

Free School Meals entitlement for pupils who are self-isolating

If a child is entitled to a free school meal under the national benefits-related criteria, and they are not able to attend school as:

- They have had a positive test result themselves
- They are living in a household with a person who has had a positive test
- They are self-isolating as they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive
- A result of local lockdown arrangements

The school is able to request a hamper from the catering company to be collected from the school. The hampers will cover a two week isolation with food items and suggested meals for ten days. You will need to email or phone the office if you are entitled to a hamper and would like to request it. It should then be delivered to the school within three working days and we will notify you that it is ready to be collected.

If you are self-isolating following a positive test result then please ask a friend or family member to collect this for you and observe social distancing.

Home Learning for children who are self-isolating

This week the teachers have prepared a 2 week pack of work for children in their class which will be emailed to parents if a child needs to self-isolate or if they are quarantining following a holiday. Please inform the office via email if you need a pack for your child.

Reading Records and Homework

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From Monday the children will bring home a book to read with you each evening. Please spend 10-20 minutes reading with your child each night and sign their reading record every night. Children in Key Stage 2 should write their own comment which the adult should sign.

Next week children will receive the first of their weekly homework activities. This will be set on a Thursday using Google Classroom (KS2) or Seesaw (EYFS and KS1) and will be due in on Wednesdays. We will send out a letter with full details about this next week.

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week back with their friends and the staff and we look forward to seeing the children next week.

Best wishes,

Stephanie Day
Head Teacher