



St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

Kale Road, Erith, Kent DA18 4BA
Telephone: 020 8310 7311 Fax: 020 8312 1017
www.sjf.bexley.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Sarah J Griffin BA (Hons) MA (Hons) NPQH

February 2022

Dear Parents

Firstly, welcome back from the half term break, whilst it's been blustery, it's been a busy start back to school. The children have returned to school positively and have settled back into school life well.

As you know the Government announcement last week demonstrates that there is increasing confidence that the country is moving from a pandemic to living and dealing with COVID-19. Guidance for schools followed and has been further updated I have used the new updates to update our latest risk assessment, contingency plans and school protocols.

We all know the virus hasn't gone away, I want to reassure you that your child's safety has been at the forefront of every decision made throughout this pandemic and will continue to be our primary focus going forwards.

Below are some key points to remember.

Attendance - staff and pupils

Attendance is mandatory for all and it is a priority.

No need for limited mixing or bubbles

Children will be able to be grouped flexibly and mix freely.

Classrooms and resources

Children will share school resources, but must still have their own water bottle, brought in daily.

Children will also continue to wear PE kit to school on PE days.

School Start and Finish times

The school day will continue to start at 8:45am - Please supervise your children when waiting outside the gates to ensure they are safe. The gates will be closed promptly at 8.55am so please make sure you arrive at school before this time.



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We are seeing an increasing number of families arriving late which results in lost learning and disruption to the school office and classes when leading children to their classrooms.

The day will continue to end at 3:00pm.

Face Coverings

You do not need to continue wearing face coverings around the school grounds, unless you choose to do so for personal reasons.

We would appreciate it if you could wear a face covering when in the reception area due to the confined space and lack of ventilation.

If your child is unwell

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell at all. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them immediately. Please ensure that contact details are up to date with the office of another person who can collect your child.

If they display symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated until you arrive. You should then make arrangements for them to be tested, using a PCR or LFD. School should be informed of the result as soon as possible.

A positive result will mean that the child will need to isolate for up to 10 days, following the latest [NHS guidance](#) and [Government self-isolation advice](#). Currently, if your child is unwell with other symptoms you can LFD test them and should this be positive you do not need to go for a PCR but may choose to. Your child should self-isolate in this case for up to 10 days, or in line with the guidance previously sent out.

The Government are keen that everybody continues to respond positively with the track and trace system. Schools are not legally bound to do this, but I will keep you informed of cases if they start to increase beyond a small number across the school. If the LFD is negative, we would ask that your child does not return until they are 'well'. I will monitor guidance, as we know that this will no doubt change in the coming weeks.



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SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

OTHER SYMPTOMS LINKED WITH COVID-19

- shortness of breath
- fatigue
- loss of appetite
- muscle ache
- sore throat
- headache
- stuffy or runny nose
- diarrhoea
- nausea and vomiting

Isolation

The guidance indicates that whilst the law has changed, the directives for public safety remain. We will follow this guidance, so isolation continues to be up to 10 days, unless you have 2 negative tests on day 5 and 6, 24 hours apart. Isolation will finish after day 5 at the earliest if you test first thing in the morning on day 5 and 6.

Please continue to liaise with the school office about your child's return date after testing positive, given our school protocols. We will review this as and when the guidance is further updated.

It is very important that these isolation procedures are followed by staff and children so that the risk of transmission is kept to a minimum. We have been very fortunate not to have many serious cases amongst staff and children, however, some of our staff who have tested positive have experienced severe enough symptoms to be unable to work for over 10 days.

If we increase the risk of infection further by allowing children and staff into school whilst still possibly infectious, we increase the risk of further staff absences. The outcome could be not being able to teach classes or set remote learning effectively as we would be unable to staff them.



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Possible further disruption to schooling

It is almost guaranteed now that schools will remain open, but there is the very real chance that there may be further disruption to 'schooling' for individual children who need to isolate or are unwell.

Please remember that remote learning will only be provided if your child tests positive for Covid-19 and is well enough to access work.

If this is the case, please contact their teacher who will endeavour to provide this at the earliest opportunity.

Any moves to remote learning for full classes will be communicated if this is directed by Public Health, however I think this is very unlikely.

If cases rise across the school additional measures may need to be reintroduced to reduce transmission including face coverings during drop off and pick up, reduced mixing of classes for example. If these measures are needed I will inform you as soon as possible.

I thank you, as always, for the support you have given us whilst on this journey.

Again, I assure you that whatever happens and wherever this journey continues to take us, we will always have our whole school community's very best interest at heart.

As ever, if you have any questions about any of the above please contact the school office on 0208 310 7311.

Kind regards

Sarah Griffin
Headteacher