



# St Albert's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs L McEvoy

*"Walking together with Jesus to Love, Learn and Serve"*

## **Return to School Arrangements: September 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Sadly, the summer is nearly over so I am writing to welcome you all back to school. I hope you are all in good health and managed to enjoy the summer break with family and friends. We are looking forward to your return to school tomorrow, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, and I therefore wanted to give you some updates and an overview of the national guidance issued by the government at the end of August and how it effects our school.

We have all worked extremely hard over the last few months and there are still many challenges ahead, however, I have every faith that at St Albert's we will continue to work well together on the systems and routines that we still need in place to keep everyone at school safe. As we know, locally our infection rates are rising, and it is therefore important that we work together to implement all COVID safety measures and keep children, staff and visitors as safe as possible within our school.

Please familiarise yourself with the information below so that the return to school can run as smoothly as possible.

### **GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE:**

#### **Symptoms:**

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a new continuous cough
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

It is important to remember that if an individual does have just one of these symptoms they should take a test.

#### **Changes to national self-isolation guidance**

From 16 August, the Government has said that people aged under 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated (two doses) will no longer be legally required to isolate if they are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Instead, they will be advised to get a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the previous 90 days.

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (see below) must get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until the result is available. People who get a positive PCR test must continue to isolate as usual (for ten days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test result if no symptoms were displayed).

#### **What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?**

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK ([www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

**Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.**

Please contact the school by phone to inform them your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

**What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means staying at home - your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care. This is to prevent others from being infected.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us that your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

**What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new or continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

**What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?**

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

**What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19**

Your child should not attend school if they are unwell. If you are concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, who will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise, we would recommend they do not attend school for 48 hours or until your child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

**What will school do if your child shows COVID symptoms in school.**

If your child shows COVID symptoms in school they will be sent home immediately and you will need to arrange a PCR test. Your child will have to isolate at home until a negative PCR is received or for 10 days from the start of symptoms. If the PCR is negative children can return to school once they are well.

If children are in school, they will isolate in the designated room and we ask that parents come to school as quickly as possible.

**Family Testing**

We would encourage everyone with children of school age to be tested twice weekly. You can order tests for home delivery, find out where you can pick up a test locally or find your local symptomatic testing sites here : NHS ([test-and-trace.nhs.uk](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)). Should you need to get a PCR Test because you may have been a close contact of a positive case or you have symptoms, stay at home and book a test through [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or ring 119.

### **Additional Information**

Each school is unique in their approach and circumstances and although I have followed the advice issued by Knowsley LA within this letter, I would like to highlight the following :

#### ***Entrance to school***

Our start times are as follows:

8.45am -9.00am - staggered start times continue at the various gates and at the previously allocated times. Please note that children who were coming into school at 8.55am should be getting into school for 8.55am as the gates will close promptly at 9am. Please note that children should continue to be dropped off at the gates and staff will accompany them into school. This system has worked very well and has many benefits.

New Starters – Arrangements for children in the Reception class are different and a letter has been sent home.

#### ***Exit from school (this will be monitored and reviewed regularly)***

Our pick up arrangements will revert back to 'pre-covid' times with parents collecting their children outside of the classrooms at **3.15pm. (3.10 for Rec and Y1)**

The gates will be opened at 3.05pm. Please do not come any earlier so that we avoid crowds gathering and exit as soon as possible. Masks, although not mandatory, are optional and some parents may wish to continue to use masks. Please be mindful of others, find a safe spot and spread out. ***Remember that you can stay outside the school gates until the class is out as this wil generate more space.***

3.10pm -	Reception- outside of the classroom to the side by IT entrance – please note that Reception children are not staying for the full day initially.
3.10pm	Y1 outside of classroom
3.15pm	Y2 Playground – please use Church gate if possible
	Y3 outside of classroom
	Y4 playground – please use church gate if possible
	Y5 outside of the classroom – please use Steerscroft gate if possible
	Y6 outside of the classroom – please use Steerscroft gate if possible

Please be aware that, for the immediate future and until further notice, we will be maintaining the following systems:

- our 'bubble' structure will predominantly remain in place and there will be no unnecessary mixing of classes (although some group work may begin to take place)
- visits to school will be **by appointment only** and all visitors will be required **to wear a mask**. Please do not approach teaching staff after school. All entrance to school will be via the school office and visitors will be required to sign in
- The wearing of masks is now optional for both staff and parents, however staff may still be instructed to wear masks at pertinent times
- Children will continue to come into school on PE days in their PE kit
- Lunch times will continue to be staggered

Our aim is to ensure that face to face learning is not compromised and if we continue to approach things sensibly, and in partnership, hopefully our children will get every opportunity to learn and achieve well, maintain good attendance at school and continue to see their friends.

Finally, I hope that the Autumn term is a settled, happy and productive time for us all. As always, if you require any further information or support, please call school.

Mrs McEvoy  
Headteacher