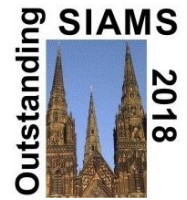




Healthy Schools
Healthy Futures



ALL SAINTS C.E. (V.C.) FIRST SCHOOL & BUSY BEES PRE-SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs V. A Bradley

11th February 2022

Dear Parents

COVID Update

Firstly, welcome back from the half term break, I hope you didn't get blown away in the storms!

As you will be aware from the Government announcement on Monday 21st February there is increasing confidence that the country is moving from a pandemic to living and dealing with COVID-19. Guidance for schools followed the next day, and has been further updated since.

As the scientists acknowledge, the virus hasn't gone away, and I want to reassure you that your child's safety has been at the forefront of our decision making throughout this situation and will continue to be our primary consideration going forwards, along with our duty of care to them, the staff and the wider community. The DFE school's guidance shows a shift from the word **must** (legally binding) to **should** (strongly advised). Using that guidance, a number of operational changes in school will take place:

Attendance

'School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

Where a child is self-isolating (awaiting a test result) or in quarantine because of COVID-19, they should be recorded as code X (not attending in circumstances related to coronavirus). Where they are unable to attend because they have a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should be recorded as code I (illness).'

[School's Operational Guidance, Feb 2022](#), p10

Bubbles

We are delighted to finally be able to lift the restrictions on our children mixing freely at playtimes, lunchtime and in before and after school clubs. Ventilation of the hall remains a concern and we are continuing to monitor CO2 levels. This week we will be trialling groups of children eating lunch together and gathering for worship to ensure that we can use the hall as regularly as possible.

Ventilation

The latest guidance stresses the continued importance of good ventilation in indoor spaces so we will continue to monitor CO2 levels throughout school and ensure that sufficient doors and windows are open throughout the day whilst of course maintaining a comfortable working temperature. We would therefore continue to advise that children wear layers of clothing that can be added to or taken off as the children prefer throughout the day.

Classrooms and resources

Children will share school resources, but **must still have their own water bottle**, brought in daily, as water fountains are still out of use due to higher risk of germ transmission. Children will also continue to **wear PE kit/Forest School kit to school on specific days**. Information regarding any changes in days will be emailed to you.

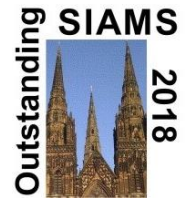
School Start and Finish times

The school day will continue to start at 8:55am, with school gates opening from 8:45am. Please supervise your children when waiting outside the gates to ensure they are safe as vehicular access needs to be kept clear. The **gates will be closed promptly at 8:55am** so please arrive at school before this time. Any arrivals after the gates have been locked will be recorded as 'L' (late) in the register.





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From Tuesday 1st March we will return to our 'normal' **end of school day of 3:30pm for all children**. We will continue to use the one-way system around the grounds as this ensures that the Busy Bee gates do not get congested with two-way traffic.

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

Safe Hygiene

Children will continue to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. Tissues and lidded bins are in each classroom so that children can 'catch it, bin it, kill it'. Please continue to encourage this at home.

If your child is unwell

Please do not send your child to school if they have a temperature or are unwell. This is for the safety of everybody. If your child becomes ill whilst at school, you will be asked to collect them. If they display symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated until you arrive. Please ensure that contact details are up to date with the office.

If you have COVID-19, stay at home and avoid contact with other people

[Covid-19: People with Covid-19 and their close contacts](#), February 2022

'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.'

Know the symptoms of COVID-19

[Covid-19: People with Covid-19 and their close contacts](#), February 2022

'The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

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

If you have any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.

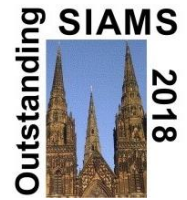
Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, or they are worsening, contact 111 or speak to your GP. In an emergency dial 999.

Most children and young people with COVID-19 experience a mild illness or do not have any symptoms at all. Children who have symptoms of COVID-19 are more likely to pass the virus onto others than those who do not.'



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Isolation

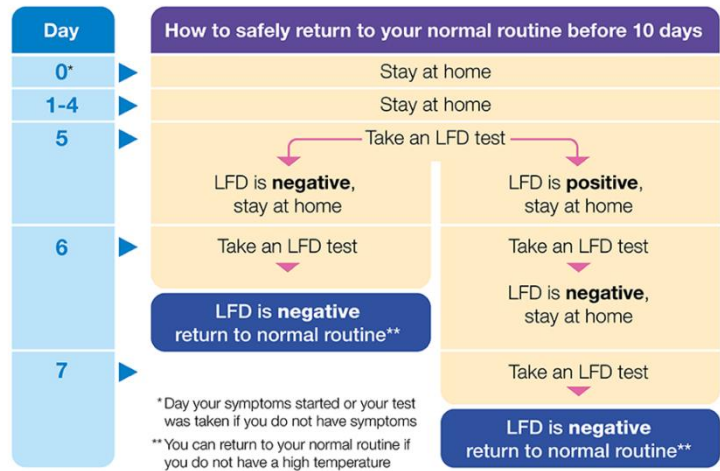
The guidance indicates that whilst the law has changed, the directives for public safety remain. We will follow this guidance, so isolation continues to be up to 10 days, unless you have 2 negative tests on day 5 and 6, 24 hours apart. Isolation will finish **after day 5 at the earliest** if you test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

'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms)

followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature'.

[Covid-19: People with Covid-19 and their close contacts](#), February 2022

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.



Close contact changes

The new guidance has brought an end to routine contact tracing. Close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual.

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 cases were to 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, suspension of collective worship and after school clubs for example. If these measures are needed we will inform you as soon as possible.

Thank you for the support you have given throughout the past two years. We look forward to returning to a new 'normal' over the rest of this academic year. We are looking forward to Church services re-starting and gathering together in the hall to celebrate the children's successes. Dates for planned events will be following shortly. Again, please be assured that whatever happens and wherever this journey continues to take us, we will always have our whole school community's best interest at heart.

As ever, if you have any questions about any of the above please contact me.

Kind regards

Vicki Bradley
Headteacher

