

St Mary's C.E. Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Calvin Henry



Dear Parents and Carers,

2nd July 2021

Re: COVID Testing

I hope this letter finds you and your family members safe and well.

Some families have been unsettled by our school's advice which requires children to undertake a PCR test in the event that they display Covid-related symptoms. I regret if this is how you feel, but please understand that we must operate within the parameters set out by public health teams who provide weekly updates to schools. This includes necessary action to take in the event of a Covid case and/or suspected Covid cases within a school community. Like the rest of you and your children, we are looking forward to a time when we can fully return to what school should and needs to be, where we can live, work and play in a Covid-free environment.

So far this term, we have only had to close one class bubble as a result of an in-school positive test. We know of a number of other local schools that have had to close significantly more classes/year group bubbles as a result of positive cases within their school community. There are also two schools in Haringey that have been forced to completely close for a period of time in recent days. Fortunately, we are not in this position and do not want to be. This is why we are unrelenting in our drive to keep everyone within our school community as safe as we can. In doing so, we will continue to operate in line with public health guidance.

Therefore, see below the updated guidance that we must continue to operate within until we are told otherwise.

- If your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case at school and is sent home to isolate, you must arrange a PCR test for them during their 10 day isolation period. Inform the office of the result. Note that a negative result DOES NOT mean they return to school, they must still complete their isolation.
- If your child shows any of the main symptoms of Covid, the household (including siblings) should isolate, and arrange a PCR test for the child showing symptoms. Keep the office fully informed of the situation, including the results of the PCR test. If it is negative, they can return to school. If it is positive, all household members should get a PCR test. This information is on the NHS website and is Haringey Public Health guidance. It is replicated below:

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, **even if they're mild:**

1. Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have COVID-19 as soon as possible
2. You, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have the test.

- Here is the link for parents and carers if they need to book a PCR test.
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>
- Remember that lateral flow tests (rapid tests) **are not appropriate** for anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 – **and must also not be used by primary-aged children or younger**. Only a PCR test is appropriate if someone shows symptoms.

My thanks to all of you for your understanding throughout what continues to be a challenging time for us all.

Rest assured, and with just three weeks to go before the end of the school year, we are doing everything in our power to remain open and fully functioning, but we do need your full support in helping us to do this. Do therefore do your best to follow the advice provided by the school office in the event of suspected or positive Covid cases if/when they arise.

If however there is any aspect of the guidance above that you are unsure about, please do not hesitate to call or email the school office office@stmarysn8.co.uk.

Thank you in advance for your support,

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Henry".

Calvin Henry
Headteacher