

ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL
celebrates life and learning

11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: COVID-19 INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Firstly, may I say a personal thank you to all the parents/carers who have been in contact with me whether on the playground, phone or email. Clarity and transparency is vital to our success in managing Covid-19. Your support and empathy for the family and school is much appreciated.

This week saw the school's first positive case of Covid-19; however I can report that the child remains fit and well. The self-isolation of the child, family, class and teacher will be in place until 22nd September. The school, family, Local Authority and Public Health have worked together to ensure that this instance has been well managed and we have all followed the procedures which have been set out.

As we work together as a school community, it is imperative that we only act on factual information. If you are told or see on social media that there is a positive case in school, it may not be accurate information and **I respectfully ask parents/carers to await the school advising of a positive case, should this occur again, as scaremongering can cause great anxiety to us all.** It may be that a pupil is at home awaiting the results of another family member and, if the test is negative, would return to school the next day.

Furthermore, if a parent/carer knows of a positive case of Covid-19 which would impact on the school community, which I have not yet been notified about, they must inform the school. This is unlikely; however, as Public Health is involved in a positive diagnosis from the time the result is discovered. They work with the person/family and track and trace to identify contact with the positively diagnosed person.

Throughout the whole of Halton, there has been a significant increase in absence as pupils are unwell with colds, sore throats and sickness/diarrhoea. This is part of the usual childhood illnesses which occur in the autumn term most years so a child's absence could be non-Covid-19 related.

Overleaf is a table of procedures everyone must follow regarding absence, whether Covid-19 related or not. I ask that you keep it for your information and refer to it should there be any concerns.

To further assist pupils remaining in their class bubbles throughout the school day, the school has purchased team bands in different colours. This will instantly help staff to identify if a child has strayed in to another bubble whilst outside. Thank you for your support in reinforcing the expectation that children remain in their bubbles. This is such a difficult time for us all and anxiety is prevalent regarding Covid-19, but please be reassured that the school staff, governors and I are doing everything we can to support our pupils and families.

We thank you in turn for your support in helping us too.

Yours sincerely,



Faith Tiernan

"I am the Lord, your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you: Do not fear; I will help you." Isaiah 41: 13

**COVID-19 RELATED ABSENCE:
A REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

What to do if	Action Needed	Return to school when
<p>My child has Covid-19 symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means you feel hot to touch on chest or back • A NEW <u>CONTINUOUS COUGH</u> this means coughing continuously, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours • A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE, you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything. 	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact school to inform us • Self-isolate <u>the whole household</u> for 14 days • Get a test. <p>INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULT</p> <p>EMAIL A SCANNED COPY TO: sec.stbedesjunior@halton.gov.uk</p>	<p>.... The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My child tests positive for Covid-19 ...</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact school to inform us • Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days • Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days • Bubble isolate – home learning packs will be distributed 	<p>.... They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste /smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks or longer</p>
<p>My child tests negative</p>	<p>CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day) 	<p>.... The test comes back negative</p>
<p>My child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19</p>	<p>FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE</p>	<p>After 48 hours following last bout of sickness/diarrhoea if this is the cause of absence</p>
<p>Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact school • <u>Self-isolate the whole household</u> • Household members to get tested <p>INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTS</p>	<p>.... The test comes back negative</p>
<p>Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact school • Agree an earliest date for possible return – minimum of 14 days • Home learning packs will be distributed 	<p>.... The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>NHS test & trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed Covid-19</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <p>CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree an earliest date for possible return – minimum of 14 days • Home learning packs will be distributed 	<p>.... The child has completed 14 days of isolation</p>
<p>We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • When returning from a destination where quarantine is needed agree an earliest date for possible return - <u>minimum of 14 days</u> 	<p>.... The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed</p>
<p>We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <p>CONTACT SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again • Home learning packs will be distributed 	<p>.... School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school.</p>
<p>My child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school</p>	<p>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At home support your child with home learning packs provided by school • Your child will need to isolate for 14 days 	<p>.... School will inform you when the bubble will be reopened.</p>

