



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs. R. Akehurst

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you and your families have had an enjoyable half term break, despite it beginning with the dreadful wet and stormy weather.

As you will be aware, although Covid measures have been lifted in England, it has not gone away. Therefore I ask that you read the guidelines below:

## From 24 February the Government has (taken from DfE guidance):

- *Removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.*
- *Removed the guidance for staff and students in most educational settings and childcare settings to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic testing*
- *No longer asked fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and removed the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.*
- *Ended routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.*

## From 1 April, the Government will:

- *Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.*
- *Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.*
- *No longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.*
- *Remove the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.*

We are asking for your support in guiding the children towards continuing to follow high levels of hygiene (washing hands regularly, sneezing into a tissue); we strongly advise that if a child has Covid symptoms, you test and if positive, keep your child off school for at least 5 days. This is to ensure the school can remain open and face to face teaching can be our priority. At school, staff will continue to remind children about the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and they will ensure that all classrooms are ventilated appropriately. **Please ensure that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell.**

Kind regards

Mrs. Rosie Akehurst

Headteacher