

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher Mr M Phillips

Date : 30th October 2020

Dear Parents

I write to you today to give you an idea of how the school is currently affected by Corona Virus. Up until half term, compared to local schools, St Benedict's had been mildly affected, with only one adult case in year 3, which was confirmed on Thursday before we broke up.

However, unfortunately since last weekend, there have been confirmed adult cases in Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and year 4. All affected year groups have been isolating during half term and will continue into next week.

On Tuesday, only years 1, 3, 5 and 6 are allowed back into school. Although all parents were contacted via text and letter, here is a reminder of the date each class is permitted back into school :

Nursery – Monday 9th November (last day of isolation is Friday 6th November)

Reception - Monday 9th November (last day of isolation is Friday 6th November)

Year 2 - Monday 9th November (last day of isolation is Friday 6th November)

Year 4 – Friday 6th November (last day of isolation is Thursday 5th November)

Years 1, 3, 5 and 6 will return as normal on Tuesday 3rd November

Although it may seem that we have a large percentage of the school community isolating, the number of people testing positive for the virus is still low compared to many other schools. We continue to implement stringent measures to prevent the spread of the virus, which include :

- Classes operating in bubbles that never mix
- The non-sharing of equipment between bubbles such as PE equipment and basic classroom equipment such as rulers and pencils
- Frequent hand washing
- Frequent extra cleaning regimes such as sanitising tables and chairs, carried out by teachers and teaching assistants

- Limited activity in communal areas such as the school hall (all packed lunches are eaten in classrooms and hot dinners are provided only for a minority of children in the juniors, who are seated on the same distanced tables each day.)
- No school gatherings eg assemblies.

These are just a few of the many measures we have taken to keep pupils and staff as safe as possible.

On Monday 2nd November, we have organised for the school to be deep cleaned by our cleaning staff, ready for the best possible start to the half term.

Once again, I thank you all for your continued co-operation which is greatly appreciated eg using designated gates, keeping to staggered start and finish times etc. The vast majority of people are co-operating with wearing masks. If you are exempt from wearing masks for medical reasons, can you please inform the school office so we are aware –otherwise we will assume you have chosen not to wear one.

Thanks once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Phillips
Headteacher