

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Dear Parents,

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID Cases are increasing in our local area and Dudley is at risk of restrictions being introduced

In line with guidance we have received from the local authority, I'm writing to **strongly recommend** parents and carers please **wear face masks that cover the mouth AND nose** when dropping children off at school in the **morning** and when collecting them at the **end of the day**

Our staff may also wear masks when welcoming the children in the morning and when dismissing them at the end of the day. They will not wear masks in the classrooms and it is **still not recommended that children below Year 7 (age 12) wear masks at school.**

With infection rates in the St Thomas' area (**our area**) increasing significantly, it's still as important as ever to follow the safety guidance of:

HANDS, FACE, SPACE

- Regular **hand washing** is still vital
- Keep a **safe distance** from others (2 metres or more wherever possible)
- **Limit your contact** with other people
- Wear a **face covering** that covers your **mouth and nose** to protect yourself and others

Neighbouring local authority, Sandwell, together with Birmingham and Solihull are already subject to additional restrictions on mixing with other people. Our local authority, Dudley, is calling on us all to **do our bit** to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in St Thomas' area (**our area**) and keep everyone safe.

Please also remember not to leave the house except to get at test if you or your child develop any symptoms of COVID-19 – these are taken from the NHS website:

- A new continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you don't need to measure your temperature)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with Coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If you have any of the main symptoms of Coronavirus:

- 1, Get a test to check if you have Coronavirus as soon as possible (NHS.UK or call NHS 119)
- 2, **STAY AT HOME** and do not have visitors until you get your test result. **ONLY LEAVE YOUR HOME TO HAVE A TEST**

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

Thanks so much for your help and support.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S Chapman'.

Mrs S Chapman, Executive Head of School

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