

# **ST ANDREW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **NUTTALL LANE RAMSBOTTOM BURY LANCS BL0 9JD**

**Headteacher: Mr D Marsh B.A. Hons NPQH**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mr J Brown B.A. Hons**

**Telephone: 01706 822649**



### **Return to School – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all well. I wanted to let you know the latest guidance for schools that we will follow when school reopens on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### **Overview**

The government continues to manage the risk of serious illness from the spread of the virus. Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all our pupils.

#### **Bubbles**

It is no longer recommended that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups ('bubbles'). This means that bubbles will not need to be used in schools from the autumn term.

As well as enabling flexibility in curriculum delivery, this means that assemblies can resume, and we no longer need to make alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch.

Contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) cover the possibility that in some local areas it may become necessary to reintroduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, to reduce mixing between groups.

Any decision to recommend the reintroduction of 'bubbles' would not be taken lightly and would need to take account of the detrimental impact they can have on the delivery of education.

#### **Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas.

The government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law but expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. This includes public transport and dedicated transport to school or college.

If we have a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in our school, a director of public health might advise us that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by pupils staff and visitors, unless exempt).

#### **Control Measures**

We will:

## **1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.**

### **Hand hygiene**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. You will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

### **Respiratory hygiene**

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

The e-Bug COVID-19 website contains free resources for you, including materials to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

## **2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.**

We have an appropriate cleaning schedule for our caretaker and cleaners. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

## **3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.**

When school is in operation, we will ensure that it is well ventilated and that a comfortable teaching environment is maintained. We will balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

## **4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.**

Children should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).

If anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we will send them home and they should follow public health advice.

Staff will undertake twice weekly home tests whenever they are on site until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Nurseries, schools and colleges only needed to trace close contacts up to and including 18 July. From 19 July, as with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case, and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school who have been identified as a close contact should continue to attend school as normal.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

### **Positive rapid lateral flow test results**

Anyone with a positive test result will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance (if they test positive at school, you should arrange for them to be collected)
- book a further test (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result, whether the test was done at home, school or college

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and your child can return to school, as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **If you suspect your child has coronavirus or has a positive test**

Do not send your child to school if:

- they are showing one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they have had a positive test result
- there are other reasons requiring them to stay at home, for example, they are required to quarantine

You should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do.

### **Online Learning**

We will provide remote education for school-aged children who are unable to attend school due to following government guidance or law relating to COVID-19 (for example if they need to self-isolate, or if they have tested positive but are well enough to learn from home).

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

Some children and young people may be experiencing feelings of anxiety, stress or low mood as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Support for children and parents**

Encourage your child to talk to you or their teacher if they are feeling anxious or stressed.

Online resources to help you support your child with mental health and wellbeing include:

- MindEd - a free educational resource on children and young people's mental health
- Every Mind Matters - an online tool and email journey to support everyone in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- Bereavement UK and the Childhood Bereavement Network - information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- the DfE blog - includes mental health resources for children, parents, carers and school staff

Public Health England's (PHE) advice and guidance for parents and professionals on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing includes actions you can take to support your child and emphasises the importance of taking 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Youth Sport Trust and Sport England have advice and support on helping children and young people stay physically active.

NHS mental health services remain open and have digital tools to connect with people and provide ongoing support. Please use your local children and young people's mental health service when needed.

### **The School Day**

The school day will return to its normal pattern as much as possible.

We have decided to keep the “soft” opening where children can walk into school when they arrive. We have found that this helped children who have any anxieties. Staff will greet the children at the gate. We would like children to arrive between **8.45am and 8.55am**.

Lunchtime will return to its usual schedule:

**Reception and Key stage 1 children 12.00-1.00pm**

**Key Stage 2 children 12.15-1.15pm**

The times for the end of the school day will be:

**Reception and Key Stage 1 3.15pm**

**Key Stage 2 3.20pm**

**(Please note for our new Reception children the times you have already been given still stand for the first few days).**

I hope this has given you the information you need for the start of school in September. If you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact us at school

Yours sincerely



D Marsh  
Headteacher



**dyslexia aware school**

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