



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Principal: Lisa Belfield
Executive Principal: Jill Pilling

St James C.E Primary School
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Wednesday 24th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you, if you are not already aware, that we have needed to close our Reception class bubble and Little Saints/Nursery Afternoon bubble over the last two days.

I know that you will be aware of the number of class closures that we have faced over the last 10 days and I do want to assure you that school are doing everything they should be doing to mitigate risks and ensure our safety measures are adhered to. Myself and other senior leaders have been in frequent contact with Bolton Public Health Team who are fully aware of the situation at our school and are satisfied that we are doing everything correctly and acting swiftly when we are aware of positive cases.

I understand how frustrating class closures will be for those of you who are affected by them. I would like to assure you that the class closures also frustrate us as a school, and it has caused us great sadness as a staff team. We simply want to fulfill our core purpose of providing every child at St James with the best education we can possibly offer; and we recognise that face to face teaching in school is the best way to provide this.

There are some things that you as parents/carers can do in order to help us:

- Please do not send children into school if they are unwell. We are all good at recognising the main symptoms of coronavirus such as a new, continuous cough, high temperature and loss of smell or taste. Therefore, if your child is poorly it is advised that you keep them at home to monitor them and if they do develop symptoms then please organise for a covid test. If we notice a child in school showing symptoms then we will send them home as we have been doing previously.
- If you have children at home who are showing symptoms, do not send their brothers or sisters in to school. If someone in your household is showing symptoms then the whole household has to self-isolate and stay at home until a covid test, for the symptomatic person(s), comes back as negative.
- If you have a child who has been sent home to self-isolate from school, due to a class closure, then they must self-isolate and stay at home. I understand that some of you have children at home who do not have to self-isolate, but a brother or sister does, but you want that child to carry on attending school. Please do all that you can to avoid having to bring the sibling who is self-isolating out of the house – could you form a short term childcare bubble with a family member or friend who could perhaps bring one of your children to school? Children who have been sent home to self-isolate should also not be playing out with their school friends after school – they do need to stay in the home.
- Please continue to adhere to the national guidelines. As it currently stands, households are still not allowed to mix indoors or outdoors (unless one other person from one other household outdoors or unless a support/child care bubble). From 29th March two households or rule of 6 may be able to meet up outdoors IF the national restrictions allow.



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It is no secret that both staff and children have tested positive within school, therefore please follow the guidance and minimise yours and your child's contacts as much as possible outside of school, so that we can try and curb the transmission that is happening in our community at the moment.

We desperately want all of our wonderful pupils back in school but we all need to work together to ensure this can happen as soon as possible.

Please do contact me at school if you wish to discuss any of this further.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Principal