



St Antony's RC School
Bradfield Road
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Manchester
M41 9PD

5th March, 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

Safe return to school

We are sure you share our relief that all children and young people will be welcomed back into school next week, and we would like to thank you for helping to reduce the number of people who have had Covid in our communities. For many families, returning to school will be an exciting time, but for others a worrying one. Whilst we need to reiterate that school attendance is mandatory, we want to reassure you that our schools are ready for the full reopening and are committed to keeping all children, staff and visitors safe.

Since your child was last in school there have been some important changes.

Rapid testing (LFD testing)

Secondary school pupils will be asked to take part in testing regularly to help identify young people who have Covid but do not have symptoms or have not yet started to feel unwell. This will initially be in school then pupils will be given tests to take home and complete twice a week, 3-5 days apart.

Regular LFD testing followed by self isolation breaks the chain of infection quickly and reduces the number of people who are potential contacts of the case. The tests are simple to do and results are known within 30 minutes. Young people need to complete the tests at least twice a week, 3-5 days apart, this helps to pick up infections that are developing.

How you can help: Please encourage your child to complete the testing, continue to test regularly and report any positive results to school immediately.

Household testing

Members of households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils are also able to access LFD home testing kits. Test should be completed twice a week by those people who are not testing already as part of their jobs. The kits contain 2 packs of home test kits, each with 7 kits, you can get hold of these kits by;

- going to a collection point,
- ordering kits direct to your house.

Full guidance including how to order the kits can be found here: www.trafford.gov.uk/coronavirus.

- **How you can help:** As a household take part in this important testing programme but remember, it is only designed to identify cases where there are no symptoms. If you have any Covid symptoms, please take a PCR test instead. You can get a test delivered to your home or by attending a testing centre details of how to book can be found at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Face coverings

Wearing a face covering in secondary schools is now recommended in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained as well as when moving around settings. Some children with certain health conditions may be exempt from wearing them.

Face coverings are important as they help reduce the spread of the infection.

- **How you can help:** please support your school's policy on face coverings and help your child to understand why they need to wear a face covering and how to wear them properly. Also ensure that your child is washing their face covering daily.

Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering

Other ways we need your help.

- If someone in your household has Covid symptoms, and is waiting to be tested or for test results, **all household members must self-isolate until the results are known.** Do not send children into school, or go into work yourself until the test result is known. If the result is positive, all household members must self-isolate for 10 days.
- **If you are a contact, you have to self-isolate for 10 days from the last contact with the case.** It does not matter whether you have a test and you are negative, you must still self-isolate. If your child has been sent home from school as a contact, they must not leave the house or garden or see friends during this period. This will stop other people getting the infection if you or your child are developing the infection.
- **Do not have visitors into your home and do not visit others in their home.** We appreciate this is difficult especially when there have been life events; deaths, births or celebrations but this is so important to reducing the risk. Under current legal restrictions this is also illegal and you may be fined.

Parents or carers, please talk to your young people about the risks of socialising at this time, and remind them about the health and legal impacts of this.

- **Reduce mixing of different households or families outside of the home too.** The weather is improving and we are all feeling excited by the lifting of lockdown rules over the next few months, however at the present time we are still in lockdown and reducing our contact with others is the best way to stop spread of the infection.
- Remember to wear face coverings, keep two metres apart from people not in your household and wash your hands regularly – all these actions reduce the spread of the infection.

We all know that ensuring our children get the education they deserve is important for their health and wellbeing, as well as their futures. We also need to protect our vulnerable families and friends.

There is no one way to prevent the spread of the infection. We all have to play our part and we are asking for your support so that we can together stop the spread of Covid, keep our children and families safe and keep our schools open to improve the lives of our children.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona Wright,
Head Teacher
St Antony's RC
School

Eleanor Roaf,
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Jill McGregor,
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