



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

22nd October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we reach the end of the first half term. It has been a tough start to the year in terms of COVID related absence for both students and staff but we are seeing an improvement now which will hopefully continue.

Thank you for your continued support with home testing. We know how important it is for you to be able to send your children to school. You should encourage your children to continue testing and [report](#) results twice a week, at home, throughout the October half-term school holiday and take a test before returning to school. All students have been provided with test kits and instructed to take them home. If you do still require more kits to continue testing over half term, you can order more [online](#) through gov.uk or collect from your local pharmacy. By testing your child twice a week over half term, you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep our students in school, and St Antony's open, to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

We have been informed by the DfE that 15% of eligible 12 to 15 year olds have now been vaccinated. NHS England will soon be opening an additional offer for 12 to 15 year olds to get their COVID vaccine out of school. Parents of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme shortly, including information about how to book an appointment. We have received information about some vaccination clinics available next week and beyond and this is attached.

As shared previously, pupils are also invited to have the Flu Jab (all year groups). This will take place on the 1st November. You should return the Econsent form on the following link to either give your consent or not for your child to be vaccinated at school:

<https://www.nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?Id=106372&Type=FLU>

Meanwhile, school itself continues! The planned, timetabled enrichment provision has not been possible so far due to staff COVID illness and therefore capacity, and so we look forward to this commencing soon after half term, every other Friday. Students have been able to choose from a wide variety of activities which we believe will further enhance their educational experience.

Our Reading Period at the start of the day on Monday to Thursday continues to go well. It is wonderful to see groups of students reading out loud to each other and to their teachers or reading their own texts independently. The aim of this initiative is twofold: to improve students' reading ability and to also encourage them to read for pleasure. Your support here is invaluable and the attached leaflet gives some suggestions as to how you can support your child with this. If your child is reading independently during Reading Period, please discuss with them what they are reading and encourage them to read something that is both interesting and challenging for them. There is a

Bradfield Road, Urmston, Manchester M41 9PD

Tel: 0161 911 8001 Email: stantonys.admin@trafford.gov.uk Website: st-antonys.com

Headteacher: Mrs F Wright



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wonderful Book Shop in Sale town centre which allows people to take three books for free. Definitely worth a visit if you are able. Year 7 and 8 students are today making their choice of a new book which they will be able to read in school and at home. They had 17 wonderful books to select from and I'm sure will be very excited to be reading this new one after half term. Please ask them about their selection.

KS3 Art & Technology after school clubs will be starting after half term. Spaces are limited. Students should see Miss Nadeem, Miss Hobbs & Mr Gibbon for more information.

It is an INSET Day on Friday 12th November and school will be closed to students that day.

Finally, the online world that most of our children find themselves very much part of, is constantly evolving. A relatively new issue is that of social bots and the attached leaflet outlines what parents/carers need to know about these computer-generated accounts, masquerading as humans.

I hope you are able to spend some time together over the half term break and that the weather is kind to us!

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Mrs Wright - Headteacher