



**St Antony's
Roman Catholic School**

ASPIRE + BELIEVE + ACHIEVE

29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Yesterday was the first Sunday of Advent and with it arrived the snow. The season of anticipation for Christmas is now truly upon us!

On Saturday, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. These new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while more information is gathered.

Face Coverings

From tomorrow (Tuesday), face coverings should be worn in communal areas by staff, visitors and pupils, unless they are exempt. Pupils should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt. Secondary school students in Trafford have been wearing face coverings for some time and we thank you for your continued support with this.

Testing

Please continue to ensure your child tests twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests. Additionally, all should test over the holidays in line with national guidance. This means that people should test if they will be in a high-risk situation that day, and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they get COVID-19.

Secondary schools have been asked to prepare to test their pupils once on-site on return in January. This will likely mean a staggered return for students and return dates for each year group will be confirmed soon. Testing all pupils in school boosts testing participation and should help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

Contact tracing and isolation

The [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#) remains in place. In addition to these, any suspected or confirmed close contacts of the Omicron variant will be asked to isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status or age. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate.

Vaccinations

I have attached details of a catch-up vaccination clinic for 12-15 year olds at Trafford General this coming weekend (4th and 5th December), which school has been asked to share.

School will be closed this Friday (3rd December 2021) to students and staff as an occasional day in lieu of the Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is preceded on Thursday from 5pm to 7pm with Parents' Evening for Year 9 students. This will be online and information has already been distributed with regard to this. If any help is needed ahead of the evening please contact Mr Haughton on j.haughton@st-antonys.com.

On Friday 10th December, students will be able to have Christmas Dinner at lunchtime which is always a wonderful treat. If students do not want this, they will be able to buy sandwiches or bring

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their own packed lunch. Students are also invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on this day, bringing a donation of £1 for the PTA who plan to use the funds for outside covered areas for the students.

We are delighted to be able to celebrate Mass with part of the school community prior to Christmas. We intend to take Year 7 and 8, who have not had the opportunity for this experience since joining St Antony's, to St Hugh of Lincoln Church for 9:30am on Wednesday 15th December (tbc) and you are warmly invited to join us.

We will close early on Friday 17th December at approximately 12:30pm. Students are invited to wear non-uniform on that day, for a £1 donation for St Joseph's Penny.

Thank you to those who have already completed Ofsted's Parent View. If you haven't done so already, I would be very grateful if you could complete the [survey](#) at your earliest convenience so that we can use your views to take appropriate action wherever needed.

As we move swiftly towards Christmas, may I suggest that a reading book might be something to purchase for your child/ren. The Literacy page of the website contains some gift ideas. Our Reading Period has had a really positive impact with one third of the students telling us that they are reading at home more now than they did before which is wonderful news.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

With kind regards,

Mrs Wright - Headteacher