

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after what we hope has been a relaxing and enjoyable summer for you and your families.

We hope that you are all well and managed to have some quality family time over the break. It has been great to see the children back and hear about all that they have been doing!

As we start the new year, we hope that it runs far smoother than the previous ones. Over this time, we put lots of systems in place and many of these will remain- even with COVID restrictions relaxed. We are still asking that the children are left at the gates in the morning, still asking for them to attend school in kits on PE days and are also keeping the year groups separate on the yard. These are things that we put in place during the pandemic and as they have worked well, we are keeping them.

You will have seen on the news that the rules regarding isolation have changed. Previously, if a child in a class tested positive, the whole 'bubble' could be sent home. The rules have now altered and I would ask that you be aware of the following:

- If a child tests positive, they will need to isolate for 10 days.
- Contacts of the child will be notified by 'track and trace'- not the school.
- Any contact/member of household who has no symptoms does not have to isolate **if** they are under 18 years and 6 months **or** in the case of anyone over this age, they have received both vaccinations. Contacts with no symptoms are advised to take a PCR test and there is no need to isolate whilst awaiting the result.
- **IF A CONTACT HAS SYMPTOMS, THEY MUST GET TESTED AND REMAIN AT HOME AND NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL UNTIL THEY HAVE THE RESULT. IF THE TEST IS NEGATIVE, THEY CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL. IF THE TEST IS POSITIVE, THEY MUST ISOLATE FOR 10 DAYS.**

This is a big shift to how things were before the summer. Please follow all the rules above to help stop the spread in our school.

You will have seen that there has been much work going on in the school over the summer. We have a new yard, which is almost finished bar some additional line markings and

'Living, Loving, Learning'

benches. As a point of safety, it is difficult for the teachers to see who is picking children up at the end of the day, especially as they do not know the faces of all parents/carers as yet. Please work with us and be patient and we will get your children to you as quickly as we can. We ask that all parents stay behind the lines (there will soon be one on the Junior Yard!) and when your child spots you, we will send them to you. If all adults come forwards, it makes it difficult for staff to see who is here and it is very overwhelming for the children. We have also had new flooring throughout the Early Years which has made a huge difference to the environment.

Once again, it is great to welcome everyone back and we are looking forward to working with yourselves and the children over the coming year. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the class teacher in the first instance and I am also available to answer any questions you may have.

Regards

Mr Daniels

