



# St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

*where everyone can succeed*



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29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

We are delighted with the behaviour and efforts of our students since they returned to school in the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. Despite the challenges of the current national situation, and the extended period of school closure from January, our students have returned to school with a really positive attitude and have settled back into school routines very well. Our students should feel very proud of the excellent efforts they have demonstrated over the last 3 weeks and it has been lovely to have them all in school once again.

We continue to embed very robust health and safety routines in school and thankfully, since we returned to school at the beginning of March, there has only been one case of a student testing positive for COVID-19 that has resulted in some close contacts having to be sent home to self-isolate. We hope this continues.

Thank you very much for your continued support in ensuring that your child completes twice weekly lateral flow tests at home and please do continue home testing during the Easter holidays. It is important to remember that this testing is to identify asymptomatic cases and it does not replace symptomatic testing, which is the PCR test taken at a NHS testing site. If you or your child has any symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines. These symptoms are new and persistent cough, high temperature and loss of taste/smell. Even if only one of these symptoms is experienced, a PCR test should be taken. Other members of the household including siblings should also isolate until the test result is received. You should not send your child to school if they or any other member of the household has any COVID-19 symptoms until they have been tested and a negative result received.

We break up for our Easter break on **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**. This is a normal school day with year groups finishing school at the usual times (Years 7 and 8 at 2.55pm, Year 9 at 3.05pm, Years 10 and 11 at 3.10pm and Years 12/13 following their last lesson of the day). We will return to school on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021** to begin the summer term.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you and your families have a wonderful and safe Easter break.

Very best wishes,

Miss Patterson  
Headteacher