



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

admin@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are well.

As you will have heard in the news last week, the government guidance for schools was updated last week. We wanted to give you an update of the changes.

Facemasks

This meant that from 20th January, facemasks are no longer recommended in classrooms for staff or students. Therefore, from 20th January, students don't have to wear a facemask in lessons. However, if any student feels more comfortable to continue to wear a facemask in lessons, they are welcome to do so.

The government also announced that from Thursday 27th January, facemasks are no longer recommended in communal areas for staff or students. Therefore, from Thursday 27th January students and staff will no longer have to wear facemasks in all communal areas in school. However, as above, if any student feels more comfortable to continue to wear a facemask around school, they are welcome to do so.

Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance remains mandatory and all the usual rules continue to apply. Enabling children and young people to attend their education setting regularly continues to be a national priority. Students must be in school before 8:40am each morning.

Close contacts and isolation

The isolation period for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 has now decreased to 5 days, if negative results are received from carrying out two lateral flow tests on day 5 and day 6 of isolation. Your child can return to school on day 6 if they are well and if both lateral flow test results are negative. If positive results are received or your child is unable to carry out the two tests, then your child must continue to isolate for the full 10 days.

If your child is a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they can continue to attend school if they do not have any symptoms but they must carry out lateral flow tests daily for 7 days. If they receive a positive result during this time, or have any symptoms, they must isolate and get a PCR test.

Testing

Lateral flow test kits will continue to be distributed to students in school and students should continue to carry out two tests weekly at home.

As with all areas of health and safety, we will continue our ongoing review of these areas and update accordingly, in line with Public Health and government guidance.

Thank you so much for your continued support. If you have any queries regarding any of this information, please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year in school.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Largue
Director of Student Support