

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable February break. I want to start the new term by saying thank you to all of our children, staff, parents and carers for your continued support particularly when we have had to operate within our COVID Contingency Plan. We are looking forward to the new terms ahead and I am delighted to share some good news later in this letter. However, I will start with information regarding the changes to the COVID guidance this week.

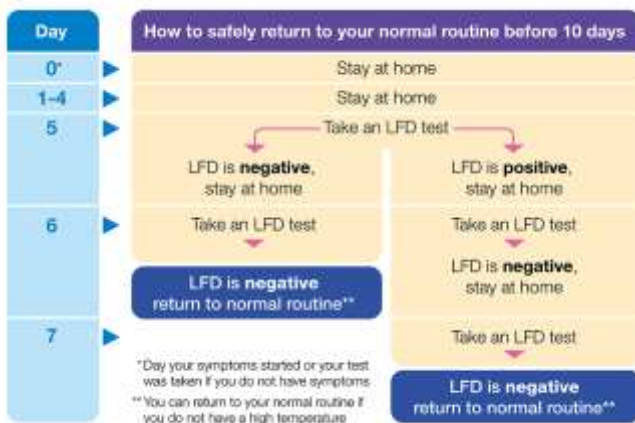
COVID update

COVID is still with us, we continue to follow the Government Control Measures to minimise the risk of transmission in school.

As you will be aware, the Government announced changes this week:

*There is no longer a legal requirement for people with coronavirus (COVID-19) infection to self-isolate, however if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 or a positive test result, the public health advice is to **stay at home and avoid contact with other people.***

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take a LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

What does this mean for us?

- Continue to monitor your child for the three main symptoms of COVID-19: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- If your child has any of these symptoms keep them at home and order a PCR test.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, the advice remains (see above) to keep your child at home for at least 5 full days and only send them back to school if they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.



Good News!

I am delighted to inform you that we will shortly be installing a new Trim Trail on the school field for the children to enjoy at break and lunch times. We have purchased this through our PE Sports Grant to continue to support and develop the children's physical development. I was pleased to let the children know during our assembly this morning and needless to say they are very excited!

All going well, the installation will begin later this month. As you can imagine, this will mean some short-term disruption mainly regarding the delivery of materials. Of course, we will endeavour to keep any disruption to a minimum as much as possible.

As you can see from the image below, it will be a very enjoyable resource for the children to develop their physical development and have fun!



Changes to drop off and collection arrangements

With the changes to Government COVID restrictions and the need to provide access for building materials/skips to access the school, it is now time to resume our 'pre-covid' drop off and collection routines.

From Monday 28th February:

Morning drop-off

The children will arrive and depart from the alley-way entrance only. The gate will open at **8.45am**; the children will walk directly into the school as they do currently. The gate will be closed at **8.55am**.

Afternoon collection

The alley-way gate will open at **3.20pm** (as is the current arrangement) to enable parents and carers to enter and wait for your child on the playground. The only change to the collection routine is instead of leaving the school via the school car park, the exit will be through the same alley-way gate used to enter the playground.

The staff car park will no longer be used as a one-way system. Of course, if this is necessary in the future, we may need to re-instate the one-way system.

Breakfast Club

In keeping with the new routine, the children attending our Breakfast Club should enter the playground with a parent or carer through the alley-way gate when it opens at **7.45am** where a member of the Breakfast Club staff will lead them into the school hall. Please note that the alley-way gate will close at **8am**.

I am sure we will have a wonderful second half of the academic year with many events to look forward to.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Louise Prestidge

Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

