



St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust
Sedgley Road
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Wolverhampton
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St Bartholomew's CE Primary School

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June 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all enjoying this much better spell of weather we are currently having. It really is glorious!

I am writing regarding current guidance regarding COVID -19. Whilst it is wonderful that restrictions are gradually easing, we are at a critical stage of the pandemic. Numbers and the R rate have started to rise, with a small but steady increase in hospital admissions. The vaccination programme has been an incredible success but is not over.

Since the relaxation of restrictions, there have been a very small number of cases of COVID in Wolverhampton schools, and these too are beginning to rise. It is therefore essential that we all continue to follow guidance to try and ensure that all restrictions can be lifted in the near future and we can enjoy a much more normal summer this year. I would therefore like to issue the following reminders.

We are asking any child who develops one of the three recognised symptoms of COVID-19 to access a test. Please call 119 or book a test on the government testing website at <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk>. The results of these are being returned very quickly at the moment. These symptoms are as follows:

- A high temperature (hot to the touch on chest or back)
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

If **any** member of your household has any of these symptoms, all members of the family should isolate and therefore **siblings of any children with symptoms should not attend school until the results of the test are known**. This is a statutory requirement as set out in the Departments for Education's guidance on the full opening of schools and has not changed. If the test result is negative, all children are able to return as normal when they are well in themselves. If any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, please inform us immediately. The whole family will need to isolate. The person with the positive results will need to isolate for 10 days. All members of their household will need to isolate for 10 days from the first date that the person with a positive test result showed symptoms. I appreciate that children do develop coughs, the vast majority of which will not be related to COVID-19; however, we have a statutory obligation to ensure that this is ruled out if a new, persistent cough develops. The same measures apply to all adults who work in our school in order to keep everyone safe. Whilst this is frustrating, it is unfortunately unavoidable in the current climate.

If you have any questions about what action you should be taking in any scenario relating to COVID-19, please do not hesitate to contact the school for clarification.

Wolverhampton City Council is advising that anyone who attends school (children and staff) who have any illness that is one of the potential symptoms of COVID-19 (headache, stomach problems, sore



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throat, aches and pains) takes a PCR test to rule out COVID-19. Children do not need to isolate unless they have one of the recognised symptoms.

At this crucial stage, I would **strongly encourage that parents and carers wear face coverings** when dropping off and collecting children from school as social distancing is very difficult due to numbers. Can we please ask that parents/carers give each other space as far as they possibly can. When children are dismissed, they should stay with their parents and **not mix with children from other bubbles if waiting for siblings**. When children have been dismissed, we ask that you make your way home immediately.

Once again, thank you for being incredibly supportive and helping us to ensure the school day runs smoothly and safely for our children and community. We are right on the brink of a high degree of normality; let's work together to ensure that this can happen as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rachael Kilmister'.

Rachael Kilmister
Headteacher