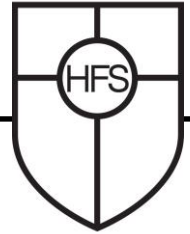


The Holy Family

Catholic School



Our Ref: SMA/DK

23 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Prior to the school finishing for the half-term break, I wanted to write to thank you for your support throughout the first half-term of the school year.

Returning to school under such tight Covid-19 restrictions was always going to be a challenge for the school community and I am delighted with the way that the vast majority of students have worked with us to ensure that the school has been able to run smoothly although very differently to how we are used to.

Inevitably we have had positive Covid-19 cases in the school community affecting both staff and students over the past seven weeks and I am very pleased that we have been able to keep the school operating with minimum disruption while ensuring that Public Health England advice was followed at all times. I am very grateful to the students who have had to isolate due to being identified as close contacts for engaging with the remote learning set for them so well, and to their families for supporting us in ensuring we are able to limit any potential spread of the virus within school.

One of the reasons we have been able to avoid closing full Year Group bubbles, even when Covid-19 staff related absence has been high, is due to staff who are well and in school being very generous with their time in covering for absent colleagues. As a staff team, we are determined to work as hard as we can to keep the school open and operating fully and I am very grateful for the determination and resilience shown by the staff which has enabled us to do this so far.

As the local area remains under Tier 2 restrictions, we need to continue to be vigilant when it comes to monitoring and responding to symptoms of Covid-19 in our students and staff. With this in mind, can I please remind you of the following information.

As per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child(ren) at home for a period of 10 days if they develop coronavirus symptoms. Symptoms include a high temperature, a new continuous cough, and a loss of normal taste/smell. Where symptoms continue after 7 days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child(ren)'s household has symptoms, your child(ren) must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

The school will insist that any student or member(s) of staff who show any symptoms that may be compatible with Coronavirus, book a test immediately. Information on booking a test will be provided by the school and the student / member of staff will not be permitted to return until the test result is confirmed, and the period of isolation is complete.

If someone you or your child(ren) have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus, you may be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service. Information on the NHS Test and Trace service is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youre-contacted-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus/>

School will re-open for a training day for staff on Monday, 2 November 2020 and all students are due to return on Tuesday, 3 November 2020. Please can I remind you that if any students are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or are required to self-isolate as outlined above then they should not return to school but should remain at home. If this applies to your child(ren), please contact the school to inform us as soon as you can.

I wish you and your families are safe and restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Mather'.

S Mather
Interim Headteacher