



Dear Parents,

Thank you for all that you are continuing to do to help us keep children in school. The months ahead are very uncertain with the discovery of the new COVID variant Omicron.

In Derby, Dr Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health, has given extra advice to try to cut down COVID spread in schools. This advice is because the highest rates of COVID cases in the City are from outbreaks in local schools.

She advised the following:

Children who live with someone who is positive for COVID should stay at home, seek a PCR test and should remain at home whilst awaiting their test result.

PCR tests are the best test for COVID and the only way that we can identify variants like Omicron. Around 2 out of 5 children who live with someone infected will become positive for COVID; and around 1 in 3 of these children will not have symptoms. These children are at risk of infecting their friends at school whilst waiting for their PCR result. **If your child is feeling unwell please keep them off school and seek a PCR test.**

The Public Health team have seen some of these cases spreading infection to other year groups or schools recently. It is really important that we do everything we can to keep rates of transmission low at St. Joseph's, especially to safeguard everybody's health and Christmas day plans. We would hate to be in a position where families would need to isolate over the Christmas period.

From tomorrow onwards, anybody who tests positive will be within the window for isolating over Christmas day.

For these reasons, we have had to make some difficult decisions in order to protect the health of pupils, staff and families.

Our Nativity performances, for now, will go ahead in a controlled way.

Only parents with allocated tickets will be allowed in.

Our Carol service will be recorded and a viewing link sent to parents.



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NOTTINGHAM

St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Mill Hill Lane, Derby, DE236SB

Tel: 01332 361 660 | admin@stjosephs.derby.sch.uk
www.stjosephscatholicpri.co.uk



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Preventative measures in school continue, they are as follows:

- Handwashing more frequently – upon entry and exit of the school building and before and after eating / using the toilet etc.
- Not gathering as a whole school, but instead using virtual methods
- Adults wearing masks in communal areas throughout the school
- Increased ventilation throughout the school
- Increased cleaning throughout the day

If there are any further measures that are required for the January return, we will communicate them via email. Please ensure that your details are up to date with the school office.

As ever we appreciate the support of parents at this time. If you have any questions do not hesitate to get in touch via our helpline helpline@jph.srscmat.co.uk

Many thanks,

Mrs Churchill
Headteacher



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