



6th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Autumn Term Week 1 Headteacher Update

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful summer holiday and with the relaxing of restrictions, have had the opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Today we welcome the newest members of our St James' family to school. Our new Year 7s will get their first full day as a pupil at St James'. A reminder that school is open for all other Year groups tomorrow, Tuesday 7th September. We are very much looking forward to the normal routines and rhythms of school life. Within our lessons we continue to follow our broad, balanced and diverse curriculum in order to educate and develop our children to become global Catholic citizens.

Our testing programme concluded on Friday 3rd September for those children that had consent and I want to personally thank you as parents for supporting our school through this. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Doherty and to all the staff who gave up part of their summer holiday to ensure this process was as smooth as possible.

As we begin our new school year Covid-19 has not gone away and I am sure several of our students and staff will test positive over the coming months. In line with Department for Education (DFE) guidance, face coverings are no longer required in school, but any child or member of staff may wear them if they wish. There will be no social distancing, zoning or bubbles at St James'. Year groups will continue to have designated toilets, classroom windows will be remaining open to increase ventilation, children will be outside after they have eaten their lunch so should bring a coat if the weather is wet or cold and we will be retaining our on-site cleaner to ensure our site hygiene is maintained to the highest standards possible. Should there be any changes to these routines, I will of course let you know.

Following on from the conclusion of our testing programme I would like to highlight that from Monday 16th August, unvaccinated young people up to the age of 18 years and 6 months and fully vaccinated adults, are **no longer required to self-isolate** if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19. Those identified as a close contact will be informed by NHS Test and Trace that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. There is **no requirement to self-isolate while awaiting PCR test results and so individuals can attend their setting as usual**. This means that the **only time a child should not be in school due to Covid-19 is if they personally have tested positive**. Mrs Hanley, our attendance officer, must be informed and your child will then be able to access Zoom lessons whilst they are isolating.

During His ministry, Jesus performed more than 40 miracles, including healing the sick, changing the natural elements of nature and even raising people from the dead. A miracle is considered an event that occurs outside the bounds of natural law. In the Gospel yesterday, Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute. At the time, deaf people were often isolated from society. This man's inability to hear or communicate had put him in danger, as people use their hearing more than they realise to avoid harm. This miracle also demonstrates that we need to show compassion for people needing help, like those who brought the deaf, mute man to Christ for healing. We need to bring people to Jesus through our actions and compassion.



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

At the start the new academic year please keep all our children and staff, but especially our new Year 7s in your thoughts and prayers. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher