



12th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Term Week 13 Headteacher Update

This week is the start of Curriculum Excellence Week (CEW). We have Sports Day today and then enrichment opportunities in a variety of subjects for each Year group throughout CEW. Staff have planned activities which should be exciting, different and enriching. Unfortunately, we do have several children isolating and staff will do their absolute best to ensure these children can Zoom into activities where possible. Full details about CEW have been sent out previously by Mrs Pickles.

On Tuesday 6th July, the Department for Education (DFE) published the Schools Covid-19 operational guidance ready for our return in September; *"This marks a new phase in the Government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk"*. I have detailed the key points as to what it means for our St James' family below:

- **Mixing and bubbles:** consistent bubbles are no longer recommended. From September 6th there will no longer be Year group bubbles and therefore no Year group zones
- **Tracing, close contacts and isolation:** from 21st July at 12.15pm, in line with DFE guidance, St James' will not be carrying out the tracing of close contacts as this will be done by NHS Test and Trace. From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so
- **Face coverings:** from September 6th face coverings will no longer be advised for children, staff or visitors. They will also no longer be recommended to be worn on school or public transport
- **Good hygiene:** at St James' we will continue to recommend good hygiene which includes, washing of hands and following "catch it, bin it, kill it". We will be continuing to maintain our extensive cleaning regimes. Our on-site cleaner will continue to work throughout the day to ensure doors and surfaces are sanitised. We will be recommending that children sanitise their hands as they enter classrooms, but this will be their decision, please speak to your child about this
- **Testing:** the DFE advice states that all Secondary school children should receive two on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart in advance of their return in September. To this end we will be offering children an on-site lateral flow test on Tuesday 31st August and Friday 3rd September both 10am to 2pm. Full details will be sent out to parents this week from Mrs Doherty so please look out for this letter and respond to the Google Form
- **Attendance and remote provision:** school attendance is mandatory for all children. Where a child is required to self-isolate as they have tested positive for Covid-19, St James' will continue to provide hybrid Zoom lessons. Zoom codes will be issued to all parents/carers in September
- **Travel and quarantine:** parents travelling abroad should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine upon return. Zoom hybrid lessons will not be provided for children quarantining due to return from travel
- **Remote education:** St James' will continue to ensure, that if required, we are able to deliver our curriculum remotely via Zoom should a situation like another national or local lockdown arise. Our remote



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

provision will follow our normal curriculum and school day including Form Time, Assemblies and all lessons

- **Education recovery:** all Faculty areas have ensured that their curriculum has been tailored to account for gaps in learning. Dr Guscott will continue to send out half termly letters which detail what your child will be learning. As a reminder, all recovery curricula progression grids are available on the curriculum area of the website. Our catch-up provision will also recommence in September with further details to follow in the autumn term
- Return to school: in September, **Monday 6th will be for our new Year 7 children only.** All other children will return to school at 8.40am on Tuesday 7th September

All current preventative measures against Covid-19 will continue in school until 12.15pm on 21st July when we finish for summer. A reminder that any positive Covid-19 cases after this point need to be referred directly to the national NHS test and trace system.

As we approach the end of the academic year, there is a palpable sense of tiredness amongst everyone. We may find ourselves irritated by the smallest of things, struggling to keep our energy levels up yet we also look forward to the summer break. Our end of Year service will focus on joy so as we look ahead to the summer, let us look for joy in the smallest of things because it is through this that we see the greatness of God and all his works. Joy is infectious. Be grateful for the tiniest things: water to drink, a moment to rest, the colour of a flower or a beautiful sunset. Keep looking for sights, smells, and sounds that make you feel joy.

I hope you have a fantastic week and I know that the students will have an enriching experience as we begin CEW. If you need us, you know where we are headteacherpa@stjamesheadle.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher