



St Benet's Catholic Primary School
St Benet's Way
Ouston
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'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'

Head teacher: Mrs C Young
Acting Deputy Head Teacher: Miss S Loughlin
School Business Manager: Mrs D Finley

Monday 6th December 2021

ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN SCHOOL FOLLOWING A COVID OUTBREAK

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sadly, more children in school have tested positive for Covid-19 over the weekend which has resulted in our school reaching the threshold levels for a Covid outbreak, in line with the local authority measures and our school risk assessment. In our Year 3 class, more than 10% of the children have tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore with effect from tomorrow, they are now back in a class bubble.

We appreciate that you will already be aware that some national measures have been reintroduced in response to the emergence of the new COVID-19 variant, Omicron. In addition, you have also received letters from the local authority pre-warning of any additional measures that schools might have to take, should an outbreak occur.

After speaking to Durham County Council's Public Health Team this evening, we have received recommendations and have decided to re-introduce the following measures **from tomorrow** to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school:

- **The use of face coverings** in communal areas for all adults – from tomorrow, all staff shall be wearing face masks in communal areas in school.
- **Year 3 children are now back in a bubble** with separate playtimes and lunchtimes.
- **Year 3 children shall be picked up on the school playground at 3:20pm along with any siblings.**
- **Christmas Plays – unfortunately, we will no longer be able to have parents attend the performances on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th December. The recordings shall still go ahead and parents can purchase a DVD or digital link but parents can no longer attend a live performance.**
- **Whole school events such as assemblies shall return to virtual methods** via Teams on a Friday afternoon.
- **Christmas Parties shall now occur in classrooms**, not together in the hall.
- Visitors to the school shall be limited.





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What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test. If positive, your child should isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk or by phoning 111.

Our school community has been extremely lucky with Covid management since March 2020 as we have had very few cases of children and staff testing positive. I am deeply saddened to have to put such measures into place just before Christmas, however with the festivities just around the corner, we want to ensure that everyone enjoys Christmas 2021 as much as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank you for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in continuing to support our school during this challenging time.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Catherine Young
Head teacher

