



'A happy and holy place of learning
and the centre of a thriving community'

St Benet's Catholic Primary School
St Benet's Way
Ouston
Chester-le-Street
Durham
DH2 1QX

Website: www.st-benets.durham.sch.uk

Email: stbenets@durhamlearning.net

Telephone: 0191 4105857

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

Monday 6th December 2021

Year 3 Class Bubble – from Tuesday 7th December

Dear Year 3 Parent,

We have had three confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Year 3 classroom. In line with the Local Authority guidance and school risk assessment, as this equates to 10% or more of children in this class, **we have been advised to place the Year 3 children back into a bubble until the earliest, Monday 20th December.**

I have spoken to Durham County Council's Public Health Team and we have been advised that from tomorrow, Tuesday 7th December, the Year 3 children shall be grouped in their Year 3 bubble and will not mix with other children in school.

We have been instructed by the Local Public Health Team to introduce such measures, which shall take effect from tomorrow morning:

- 1) Year 3 children shall have separate lunchtimes and playtimes as well as toilet regimes (ensuring that they do not mix with the other year groups).
- 2) If your child attends breakfast club or an after-school club, they can still attend but they must socially distance away from the other children. *Given this information, if you would rather your child did not attend a club, please email us to let us know and we shall refund you via ParentPay.*
- 3) Children can still arrive at school between 8:35am and 8:55am and enter through their classroom door. Instead of using the cloakroom, they shall keep their bags and coats in the classroom.
- 4) **Children are to be picked up at the end of the school day at 3:20pm on the playground.** If you have siblings in any other year group, we will ensure that those children are also available on the school yard to pick up along with your Y3 child.
- 5) Sadly, the Y3 class will not be able to attend the Christmas Pantomime at The Sunderland Empire. (I do not want these children to feel excluded from such a lovely opportunity so staff will look to see what the Covid policy is with the Empire and if we can't cancel, we will ensure that the children attend a theatre show after Christmas).
- 6) Chaplaincy and Sport with Mr Kent shall not occur until the Spring term, when the children are no longer in the bubble.





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I am absolutely devastated to have to put our Year 3 children back into a bubble and that a Covid outbreak has occurred now, so close to Christmas. Our school has been extremely lucky with Covid management since March 2020 and we have had very few cases. As always, this is a credit to our staff and families for working together to ensure the health and safety for all concerned.

An additional letter about the other restrictions that we are putting into place shall be emailed to all parents this evening, but as your child is in Year 3, I wanted to make sure that you receive this information about the bubble closure first.

We shall explain to the children about such additional measures when they are in school altogether tomorrow morning. This will not ruin the build up to Christmas for our Year 3 children and we will all ensure that they still celebrate the festivities and enjoy their time at school over the next two weeks. They deserve it!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Catherine Young
Head teacher

