



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas together, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed year ahead. I know we are starting this calendar year in difficult circumstances as the country continues to deal with the effects of the pandemic. Whilst acknowledging the challenges, we are here, ready to continue our academic year and determined in our aim to give our children as full and high-quality an educational experience as possible this term, whilst aiming to minimise chances of transmission and having contingency plans in place for the event of individual isolation or class/school closures. As always in these times, government guidance has been considered in the context of our own unique circumstances.

Our approach remains consistent with our methods of operating so far this Academic Year:

- ❖ The most important step is to ensure anyone who is presenting with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms does not attend school and gets tested. If anyone in the household has symptoms, the child of that house should not attend school until the individual receives a negative test result. We engage with NHS Test and Trace processes where necessary and we manage any confirmed cases amongst the school community following guidance from public health and the Department of Education.
- ❖ In school, everyone on site cleans their hands thoroughly and often; we encourage good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to coughs and sneezes.
- ❖ We have enhanced cleaning procedures and we ensure that surfaces and equipment are regularly disinfected.

- ❖ We minimise opportunities for pupils to mix outside of their classes by holding virtual assemblies and separating break and lunch times. We don't hold whole school events at the moment and our extra-curricular activities are paused until further notice. (Angels wrap-around continues where required).

Your support has been fantastic in helping us minimise disruption so far. Please continue to help us by:

- ❖ Being mindful of government guidelines for tier 4.
- ❖ Keeping your distance from each other at drop-off and pick up times.
- ❖ Keeping to the left as you walk to and through the site. If you need to pass by someone, overtake on their right-hand side and queue where necessary.
- ❖ Limiting the number of adults dropping off and collecting.
- ❖ Wearing face coverings where possible on site.
- ❖ Contacting the school office via **phone or email** rather than visit in person to assist us in limiting the number of adults entering the building.
- ❖ Making sure children arrive with all that they need so you do not need to drop off lunches, water bottles, PE kits etc. during the day.
- ❖ Parking on the right hand side of the car park on entry, allowing a pedestrian path to run safely back away from the school gates. With limited space we are asking anyone driving to be careful and considerate. Remain vigilant and do not block routes. Children should be closely supervised at all times. If you are able to walk or cycle, even for part of the way, to facilitate parking off-site please do so.

If individuals, classes or the whole school are directed to remain at home over the coming days or weeks, the school will remain in daily contact and remote learning will be provided to ensure a level of continuity for our children's education. Staff who may have to isolate will as far as possible be covered in school and will continue to work remotely where possible. We are aiming to utilise the platform **SeeSaw** for all home learning communication (including homework and daily updates) in the

coming weeks, so it is really important that you read and respond to the online permissions form for SeeSaw which will be sent out later today.

Thank you as always for your support, my prayers are with you all as families as you navigate the road ahead. In this extended period of challenge, I continue to hold closely to the hope of improvement in the year to come as we all look forward to a future without this virus.

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging – Psalm 46:1-3*

Yours sincerely,



Mr. A. Taylor

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