



22nd September 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a fantastic first two weeks to the school year. I am really proud of our wonderful children who have settled in to their learning straight away and especially to all of our new starters who have joined the St Gabriel's family.

COVID

Usually at this time of year, with the return to school, there are a number of bugs going around as the children mix in their classes after a summer break. As expected, we've had some sickness, coughs, colds, sore throats, runny noses. In and amongst this we have also had some positive COVID cases. This too is not unexpected as our children mix both in and out of school. As a control, we keep the classrooms well-ventilated and ensure good hand hygiene and regular cleaning is in place.

In contrast to previous years, government guidelines do not ask us to send home whole classes of pupils if a case is confirmed. In this scenario, we will send home a message to the class advising all (as close contacts) to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) and if positive, to obtain a confirmatory PCR test. Should that too be positive, a pupil will be required to isolate for a ten-day period and remote learning will be provided. As a contingency, we may have to reintroduce certain control measures, like year group bubbles within school, if clusters of cases are detected. Due to the reliance on testing as a control measure, it is likely we will see more confirmed cases than in previous years. At all times, we will aim to minimise any disruption to your child's education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Taylor'.

Mr. A. Taylor

Headteacher



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