



5th January 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back and a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas period sharing precious time with family and friends.

Our spring term starts with the country once again in the midst of responding to COVID as higher numbers of cases are recorded. I pray not, but this may result in some disruption, with higher than normal levels of staff or pupil absence. We ask that you bear with us whilst we prioritise ensuring face-to-face education for as many of our pupils as possible.

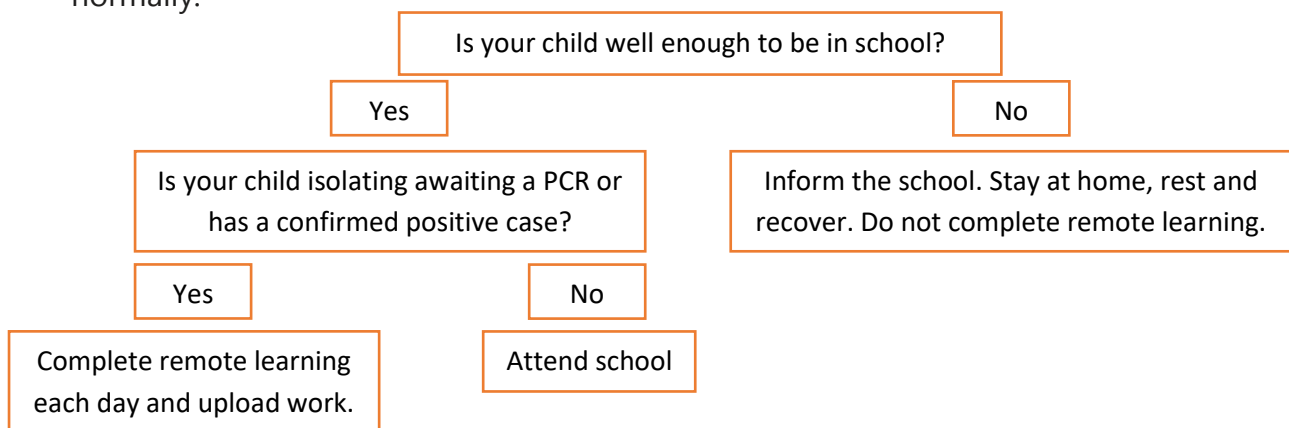
Testing

Whilst the emphasis is on getting the population's immunity boosted with vaccines, testing has become increasingly necessary as a tool to enable people to go about their lives. For those of us here at St Gabriel's, regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) is encouraged for all members of the community. I appreciate these have been hard to get hold of but am hopeful supplies will increase in the coming days. Close contacts of positive cases can now continue to attend school provided they are negative on LFTs prior to the start of the day. According to newly updated guidance, if your child returns a positive LFT result, please let us know and your child should not attend school until at least the 7th day after they tested. They can return on day 7 if they have had a negative LFT on day 6 and day 7 as long as the tests were done 24 hours apart, so both need to be done first thing in the morning. If your child displays a high temperature, continuous cough or loss/change of taste and smell, please contact the office to let us know they won't be in and book a Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test ASAP. If the PCR result is negative, let the school know and your child can return to school if well enough. If the result is positive, please let us know and your child should not attend school until at least the 7th day after symptoms first started. If your child is too unwell to attend school for any reason, please report in the usual way. Regular attendance at school remains compulsory and we ask for your assistance in maintaining high levels of attendance as far as possible.

Remote Learning

If your child is absent because they are awaiting the result of a PCR test or if they have a confirmed case of COVID, **but are otherwise well**, then they should access remote learning. If your child would not be well enough to be in school, whether COVID related or otherwise, they should not complete remote learning but should rest and recover.

If your child is learning remotely due to isolation, we ask you to support them to access their lessons and to upload their work each day. You will find a set of Remote Learning activities called 'Remote Learning' on Seesaw (Y1-6) or Tapestry (Reception) to use in these circumstances. **Please do not use these activities for any other reason** as they are only for those isolating. If your child is isolating and are too unwell to work, please inform the office for each day they are unwell as you would normally.



Weather

As we're in the cold weather season, please make sure children have appropriate coats and other warm clothes such as gloves, scarves and hats and that all items are clearly named. Also please take care should paths be icy and if travelling by car, give yourself a few extra minutes for defrosting.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. A. Taylor
Headteacher



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