



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

9th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by praising the children for the positive attitude they have shown since they returned to school. Before reopening, we tried to avoid making presumptions about the effect the closure may have had on pupils. We know how supportive our families are, and this has proven to be the case. The children are a credit to their parents and carers and you should all feel very proud of everything that has been achieved in very difficult circumstances.

Children are receiving a full curriculum in school and are enjoying being back in class. We know that bubbles are limited to classes and that this may well have some impact on their social interactions. However, the current situation does not yet allow for the size of these bubbles to be increased. We must all continue to work together to provide the reassurance that children will need at these uncertain times.

Public Health Salford – Guidance for testing

Guidance from Salford differs to the national guidance relating to testing. This is causing us a lot of difficulty at present because the testing capacity in Salford is struggling to meet demand for tests caused by their own criteria. Therefore, I wanted to clarify the following messages:

- **If your child or a member of your household has symptoms of Covid 19 (see below) DO NOT COME INTO SCHOOL. Contact the office and we will advise you what to do.**
 - A high temperature
 - A new continuous cough
 - A loss in sense of taste and smell
- **If you are contacted by Track and Trace, or feel that you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, do not send your child to school and contact the office for advice.**
- **If your child is unwell, please do not send them into school. If they have two or more of the symptoms below, please inform the office and try to arrange a test through NHS website or call 119.**

Vomiting/nausea/off their food, diarrhoea, sleeping more than usual, complaining of not feeling themselves, listless/restless/agitated, shortness of breath, feeling cold, headache, severe body aches, sore throat, congested or runny nose, skin rash - anything that is not feeling themselves.

Until capacity improves at the AJ Bell Stadium, parents are advised to book tests via <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling 119."

There are so many different scenarios, and messages are not always clear. We want to limit the closure of bubbles and stop the spread of infection. Therefore:

If in doubt, keep your child at home and contact the school office. We can then advise you exactly what to do.

Let us know if you are experiencing any difficulties accessing a test.

Closure of Bubbles

Already in Salford and Bury, a number of schools have had to close groups/bubbles for 14 days due to a positive test. We are desperate to avoid this at St. Philip's, but realise that it is a strong possibility. Extremely strict measures are in place to limit any closure, and bubbles have been kept as small as possible. However, there remains a very strong probability that someone within our school community will test positive for covid-19 at some point. We must all play our part:

- Do not send children into school if they are ill
- Do not mix with more than 6 people at any point in time
- Wear face coverings on the school premises **and** on the approach to the gates
- Follow strict handwashing routines
- Follow all guidance and respect the instructions given by the school.

Please remember that the decision to close bubbles will be made by Public Health Salford and **not** the school. We are finalising our 'Home Learning Policy' this week and will ensure that any impact on the children is minimised.

Morning and Evening Arrangements

Thank you for working with us each morning and evening. As the days have progressed, the routines have run a little more smoothly each day. I ask that you all take responsibility for maintaining social distancing between each other when waiting outside the gates or in the playground. Wearing face coverings will hopefully help reduce the risk of infection, but still try where possible to keep a safe distance and avoid arriving at the gate before the appropriate times.

Reception 2021

The number of applications received for entry into Reception this year was much lower than in previous years. If you know of friends/families who live just outside of our catchment, but want their child to attend St. Philip's in September 2021, they need to put St. Philip's as their first choice. If not, it is unlikely that the local authority will generate the offer of a place. Some parents have informed me that they wanted to send their child to St. Philip's but 'did not think they would get in'. Think carefully about your choices and contact our school office or the local authority if you require any further clarity.

Choosing a school for your child is very important. Therefore, if permitted, we aim to host a 'socially distant' open day on Saturday 17th October. Over the coming weeks we will share more details with our families and local nursery/childcare providers. We would love the opportunity to welcome prospective parents to our school and show them the outstanding provision that will be available if their child was to join St. Philip's.

Thank you for all for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr. J. Barrett

Headteacher