



15th December 2020

COVID-19 Testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well, enjoying Advent celebrations and looking forward to Christmas. I would like to provide you with an update on current provision within our schools during the pandemic and make a request for your support for our staff in schools, as we approach Christmas:

Update

- All schools opened fully in September 2020 and have worked tirelessly to keep pupils and staff safe throughout the term, including during the rising numbers of cases before half term and then during the period of lockdown in November 2020.
- In the period since September 2020, across its sixteen schools, the CMAT has had 111 positive COVID-19 cases, equivalent to approximately 2% of its total population.
- Headteachers and school staff have implemented strong safety measures across our schools which have resulted in all of our schools remaining open, although as expected, there have been instances of bubbles closing and of pupils and staff self-isolating.
- The dynamic risk assessment of each academy continues to be regularly reviewed to take into account the latest DfE guidance and ensure they remain responsive to any change in the national tiers.
- Staff have worked incredibly hard to develop remote learning programmes to enable pupils to continue their learning whilst isolating. This has been achieved in addition to planning and delivering teaching and learning to pupils remaining in schools.
- Headteachers and school communities have expressed their appreciation for the high levels of support shown by families across all of our schools. Your cooperation and compliance with the control measures put in place by each school have greatly helped our school staff.

Christmas Holiday

Over the Christmas holidays, it is vital that our school staff are able to enjoy a well-earned rest and enjoy time with their families, in-line with Government guidelines.

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You can support our staff who really do need as much of an uninterrupted break as possible by following the DfE guidelines:

- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school should be contacted and will assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation. Please follow the contact instructions issued by your child's school.

As we approach the Christmas break, you can help minimise the risk to our school staff by following the guidelines very carefully and, if you are not sure, you can visit the NHS website or ring NHS 111.

By following the guidance to the letter, you will be supporting staff in our schools. Thank you.

On behalf of the Directors of the St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust, and CMAT's executive team, I would like to wish you a happy, peaceful and holy Christmas and I pray that 2021 brings much hope, joy and good health for you and your families.

Yours sincerely

Louise Wilson,

CEO

St Thérèse of Lisieux Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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