



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

"Together we will give our children
the roots to grow, and the wings to fly"

Christchurch Street East,
Frome, Somerset BA11 1QG

t: 01373 462251

w: stjohnsfrome.co.uk
e: stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland

29th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to our letter on Monday, we write to let you know about some additional COVID control measures we have been asked to put in place, due to the high case rate in the Frome and wider Mendip area. We have been asked to maintain these measures initially for two weeks, but we may be asked to continue with them for a longer period of time, depending on the local case rates.

Attendance

If your child is unwell with possible COVID symptoms, please keep them at home and seek a PCR test. If negative for COVID, individuals should still wait until 24 hours post fever to come back to school.

If your child is identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case of COVID, you should seek a PCR test. Adults and older children are recommended to undertake daily lateral flow testing whilst a close contact. This is left to parental discretion for younger children. If you choose to undertake daily lateral flow testing with your child, they can attend school, as long as their lateral flow result is negative and they are not unwell. If you do not wish to undertake daily lateral flow testing, we would ask that you keep your child at home until you have their negative PCR result.

Drop Off / Collection Arrangements

We are not changing our drop off and collection times at this stage, as we fully appreciate this is inconvenient for families. However, we need to ask that you assist us in managing the large number of people moving around the site with the following measures:

- Stick to your child's correct times. If you arrive early, please wait off site until the correct time.
- Please stick to the one-way system around the site. The only exception should be those with a pushchair / pram.
- Please consider wearing a face covering on the school site, unless you are exempt. Adults in school will be wearing face coverings in communal areas of the school, unless they are exempt.
- Please space out in the playgrounds and do not congregate near the entrances. Please move off the playground as soon as you have collected your child.

If you can all work with us at the start and end of the day, we hope not to have to change our timings. However, if Public Health ask us to further stagger things we may have to change our timings.



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.

Mixing of Groups within School

We will be minimising mixing of groups within school and, where mixing within a year group does take place, making efforts to have the mixing outside, or with other protective measures in place (e.g. increased ventilation). We will be continuing with most of our intervention groups, but will be suspending any groups where the groups are taken from different year groups.

We would ask that you support us at home by considering carefully how much mixing takes place between children out of school.

Cleaning and Hygiene Measures

We will continue with the enhanced cleaning in school that we have had in place since the start of the pandemic.

Hot Lunches and After School Clubs

We told you that we would review at half term whether we could return to offering hot lunches to years 3 and 4, and restart some after school clubs. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to do this, whilst we have the increased measures in place. We will review things again when we are able to reduce our control measures.

Wraparound Care

Early Birds and Twilight will continue to run as normal. We will continue to hold these in the hall as we can have children from different classes spaced out.

Regular Asymptomatic COVID Testing and the COVID Vaccination Programme

We urge all families to engage with regular lateral flowing COVID testing. As the family of a school aged child, you are advised to do lateral flow tests twice a week. Tests are free and widely available from local pharmacies. If you are unwell, you should book a PCR test rather than a lateral flow test.

We urge all those eligible for a COVID vaccination to engage with the vaccination programme, if they have not done so already.

Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support; we really do appreciate it.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Claire Marsland

Headteacher



At St John's CE VA First School the health, safety and wellbeing of every child is our top priority. We expect all staff, governors, parent/carers and visitors to share this commitment to safeguarding our pupils.