



# 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](http://stjohnsfrome.co.uk)  
e: [stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:stjohnsfrome@educ.somerset.gov.uk)

**Headteacher: Mrs Claire Marsland**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas with your families, and wishing you a very happy new year!

Please find attached to this email a document with the latest guidance directly from Somerset Public Health and copies of the flowcharts for Nursery age children as some of our reception children are under 5 and for reception to Year 6. I have also included the 'COVID-19 Checker for Parents.'

As always, we would like to do our utmost in keeping the school community as safe and well as possible. With this in mind, although, it is not mandatory, we would prefer that you do test your children today ahead of returning to school tomorrow. That is of course if you are able to access lateral flow tests. Also, within the coming weeks, if your child is identified as a close contact, we ask that you consider daily lateral flow testing, as per the public health guidance.

The new Omicron variant symptoms are different, and advice is being given that if you have cold-like symptoms you should test. We are going to take, what I hope you will agree, is a sensible approach to this during the school day. At this time of year, young children notoriously have cold-like symptoms, and it is not in their best interests to be sent home every time they sniffle. So our approach for the start of term, and until we receive further guidance will be, that we will only ask for a child to be collected from school with cold like symptoms if they are coughing and / or sneezing excessively or if they have a high temperature. If we notice a child appears to have cold-like symptoms, but is not coughing or sneezing, we will inform the parent at the end of the school day and advise a lateral flow test.

Our risk assessment and procedures in school has not changed for the start of term; we will inform you as soon as they do change. We are still planning to hold our 'Share My Work and Curriculum information Sessions' in the next two weeks; further details will be sent out about these tomorrow.

Lastly, it is essential every child has a waterproof coat in school every day. It is extremely important for children to spend as much time as is possible outside, and will go outside for playtimes in light rain and all PE lessons are being delivered outside unless the rain is torrential.

Again, many thanks for your continued patience, understanding and support.

Kind regards

Claire Marsland



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.