



# St Thomas & St Anne's CE Primary School

## Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN

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*~ Working Together to Achieve Our Best ~*

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after a blustery and wet half term break! It has been lovely to see the children return to school so positively and they have settled back into routines well.

As you will be aware the government has set out plans to help us live alongside the virus. The guidance for schools has also been updated and I have used this to update our school Risk Assessment as well as our outbreak management plans and school protocols.

Much of the school guidance remains the same with a focus on four main control measures:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

Much of our operations will also remain the same but there are a few changes to how we will operate. Please be reassured that as always, the safety of our school community is a priority in both protecting the health and wellbeing of our staff and pupils but also in protecting the education of our pupils too.

### **No need for limited mixing**

We are delighted to be able to meet together again in the hall for our collective worship, celebration assemblies and to be able to sing together of course! Children will also be able to mix freely at breaktimes and golden time.

### **Hygiene and cleaning**

Good hand washing routines are now well established within school and we will continue with this throughout the day. Each class has tissues and lidded bins to ensure children can follow 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'. Our additional cleaning routines are also now well established and we will continue with these, including cleaning the dining hall tables and benches between sittings.

### **Face Coverings**

Staff will no longer be required to wear a face covering in communal areas however some may choose to do so as this now a personal choice. Parents and carers are also not required to wear face coverings during pick up/drop off or when visiting reception, although again this is personal choice. We would continue to ask though that we limit the Reception Lobby to one person at a time to avoid overcrowding in the small area. Parents entering the school building

will also not be required to wear a face covering but this also remains a personal choice. We will keep this under review and we will communicate any changes.

### **Ventilation**

We will continue to ensure that we strike the balance between well ventilated classrooms and comfortable learning environments. We have access in school to CO2 monitors that we are able to use to identify areas of poor ventilation so we can take action such as opening further windows.

### **Managing Positive Cases**

We will continue to manage suspected and positive cases in a similar way as before half term. The guidance indicates that the law has changed in relation to self-isolation but there is still directive on public safety. Here in school we are still following the advice [COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts) and if your child tests positive for Covid 19 on a LFD or PCR test then they will need to complete the self-isolation periods in line with government advice.

*'Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these test results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.'*

Please continue to inform Mrs Marshall or Mrs O'Donohue in the school office of positive tests as this will help us in monitoring cases in school. We will continue to provide remote learning for any pupil who tests positive and is well enough to complete the work.

It is very important that these isolation procedures are followed by staff and children so that the risk of transmission is kept to a minimum. We have been very fortunate not to have had major disruptions to school wide operations and I strongly believe this is testament to parents and staff following advice and guidance. If we increase the risk of infection further by allowing children and staff into school whilst still possibly infectious, we increase the risk of further staff absences. The outcome could result in us not being able to teach classes or set remote learning effectively, cancellation of trips, clubs etc as we would be unable to staff them.

### **Contact tracing**

The new guidance has brought an end to routine contact tracing. Close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests for 7 days. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. We would ask that if you have a confirmed case of COVID 19 within your household that you follow government advice and pay particular attention to any symptoms and if your child becomes unwell to arrange a PCR test.

If we do see a significant rise in cases across school then we will implement our outbreak management plan which may see a reintroduction of additional measures such as reducing mixing and reintroduction of face coverings.

It does feel a huge relief to be able to relax some measures in school and I would like to thank parents, children and staff for the support you have shown on this journey.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Kind Regards,

Hannah McGrath