



# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

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Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess

*We follow in Christ's footsteps*

24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **COVID-19 update**

COVID-19 remains present in our communities and, with activities opening up more freely, transmission rates remain high. We currently have a small number of cases involving different year groups across school. Those positive cases are now self-isolating. Please be vigilant and keep a close eye for any potential symptoms in your child. If your child has symptoms, please book a PCR test immediately.

Completing regular lateral flow tests with all family members (even young children) is recommended and we are all used to these now. On-going lateral flow tests are aimed at those people without symptoms. Regular checks with lateral flow tests will help reduce the spread across our community.

If a close contact has a confirmed PCR positive result, all close contacts should go for a PCR test as soon as possible. Please inform school of the result so we can respond appropriately.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely.

## **Parent Questionnaire**

Thank you to all those who completed our recent on-line parent/carer survey. We had 48 responses in total. It has been lovely to read your positive comments as well as your thoughts on taking our school forward. I will be in contact with those parents who are interested in follow-up calls over the next few weeks to discuss these ideas further. I will be able to give a general summary shortly.

## **Reading Books in Reception and Key Stage One**

Reading is a vital life skill and, as such, great emphasis is placed on this in school. We have updated our approach for our Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils. Parents of pupils in these year groups will receive an additional, introductory letter.

You will often hear me say that our children make the best progress when school and home work together. With this in mind, you will be contacted, on an individual basis (by letter), to give you advice regarding how you should focus support during your shared reading time at home if a need has been identified. This may be with comprehension/fluency.

**IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN READING OR INTERPRETING THIS DOCUMENT PLEASE CALL 01207 570316**



### **Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) Elections**

Thank you to all our pupils who put themselves forward to be class representatives for our PLT (Year 2 and above). It takes grit, time and effort for our pupils to prepare, share ideas and stand up in front of classmates. Elections are on-going but, regardless of the results, I want to say to all involved that we are very proud that you are willing to represent and serve your classmates and our school! Good on you! I am very much looking forward to working with you.

### **School trips**

We are in the process of finalising an annual overview of school trips which we hope to share with you very shortly. We hope this will prove helpful to budget your contributions across the year.

### **Safety around our school site**

Please continue to be mindful of safety around and outside our school site. Enter school via the playground and do not stand outside the confines of the school yard before school starts. Please enter and exit on foot via the 'alleyway' or yard, and not the roundabout. We will be closing the church gates from 8.30am to 9.10am and also at the end of the school day. If you are crossing, please use the school crossing patrol. Parents should not park at the factory entrance. This is not safe as there is constant movement of vehicles in/out of the factory units. Please allow plenty of time to park away from school, at a safer distance, and walk onto site.

For safety reasons, children are not allowed on the yard equipment before/end of the school day.

### **Safeguarding**

In school, safeguarding is always at the forefront of our minds. It covers all aspects of school life and it means we focus training, resources and practices to help keep everyone safe. Our curriculum ensures children are fully involved in this as it explores ways they can keep themselves and those around them safe. As parents, I know you will be ready to work with us. Please take a very active interest in what your child is accessing on line, to whom they are talking and what social media apps they are using.

To reassure you, I am not sharing this in response to any specific incident in school. I include this in my update today because this is an area which needs constant attention, and I will remind you of this frequently during the year. If you become aware of anything concerning, please do not hesitate to contact school and we can provide advice, if necessary.

If you have any questions about any aspects of this letter please contact the school office by phone or email. We have a new email: [stpd@stpd.bwcet.com](mailto:stpd@stpd.bwcet.com) Previous emails will still be redirected for the time being.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Burgess  
Headteacher

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