

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Headteacher: *Mary Collins*
Head of School: *Catherine Mahony*
Assistant Headteacher: *Jon Foster*
School Business Manager: *Jean Wilson*
Facilities Manager: *John Watmore*

Culverley Road, Catford, London SE6 2LD
Telephone: 020 8698 2675
Email: info@holycross.lewisham.sch.uk
Website: www.holycross.lewisham.sch.uk

Thursday 2 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the summer break. We have been asked to share the following information with you from the local authority regarding Covid-19.

Keeping our schools safe

You will know that during recent weeks most COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted across the country and the vaccination programme has continued to be rolled out. In schools this means that 'bubbles' are no longer a requirement.

We will of course still be taking actions to keep children and adults safe in school making sure that everyone washes their hands regularly and that there is enhanced cleaning and good ventilation, for example. There are some further arrangements which will still be in place to add extra protection as these have worked well and do not disrupt the school day:

- Hands to be sanitised as children come in each morning
- Parents requested to wear face coverings when in school
- Regular handwashing and sanitising throughout the day
- Increased ventilation in classrooms
- Split playtimes for those in KS2 reducing the number of children on the play ground at any one time by half

Anyone aged 18 or under will no longer need to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but will need to get a PCR test. From the 19th July, the process of contact tracing COVID-19 cases in schools moved to NHS Test and Trace. This means we will not be informing you directly about cases in the school or if you are a close contact. You will be contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace.

You must still self-isolate if:


- you have tested positive for COVID-19 (even if you have been vaccinated)
- you have symptoms of COVID-19, while you wait for the results of a PCR test
- or you are told by NHS Test and Trace that you have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 and you're not fully vaccinated (18 years or over).

Children and young people are at very low risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. The majority of school staff and teachers have already had the vaccination. By September, all staff and teachers will have been offered the COVID-19 vaccination and by October half term, all will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

The virus remains a risk to many people in Lewisham. If your child has COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough or loss/change to smell or taste), you must keep them off school and let us know. It is really important that they stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test. If the test is positive, they must stay at home for the full ten days. Even if they're feeling better, they will be at risk of spreading the virus to the more vulnerable in our community. Please let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

We hope and pray for an uninterrupted year of teaching and learning at Holy Cross.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Mary Collins

Executive Headteacher of Aspire London



not to have more but to be more
saint oscar romero