



## St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

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Headteacher: Miss Verity Edey

Deputy Head: Mrs Kathryn Thorp

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### **Covid19, Home learning and Half Term Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we have had four positive cases since last Friday. We are pleased to confirm that we have not had any further positive cases to report. Both bubbles that are isolating will not be in school until after half term which will give a sustained period to hopefully break the circuit of transmission.

I do appreciate that these times are unsettling for us all and that any bubble closures do have a huge knock-on effect for our key worker families, who also have an important role to play in the Covid19 response. Please do remember that we are here to support you. We have a full-time pastoral lead who can give advice and support on request so do please use this service if you require.

As the headteacher of St Mary's I have a duty of care to all our families. We are constantly reviewing our risk assessments. After our successful HSE inspection which resulted in no further actions and after consultation with the Hertfordshire County Council Covid19 specialist team, no further action was required by the school other than bubble closures in relation to the positive cases that we have had.

However, I must stress the importance of the need to work together to mitigate the risk of the virus coming into school. In the past week we have intercepted several cases of actions of parents whereby my staff, pupils and wider families could have been put at further risk.

It is essential to support the safety of our staff and pupils and their wider families that parents/carers from different households do not:

- Car share to and from school
- Request to collect or drop off pupils from different households or different bubbles. This will not be authorised by the school.

The above could result in multiple bubble closures which would have a significant impact on key worker families and will raise the capacity for viral spread and risk to our community. We must keep our bubbles separate to contain the spread.

It is important that parents fully understand the expectations around legal support bubbles.

The Government law that has been set out and sent to all parents last Friday remains in place and is as follows:

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## Leaving home

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person (in which case you should stay [2m apart](#)). Exercise should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay in your local area - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work.

Staying in your local area means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

If you are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) you are advised to only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. We recommend that you do not attend work.

## Meeting others

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with or are not in a [support bubble](#) with (if you are legally permitted to form one).

You may exercise on your own, with one other person, or with your household or support bubble. This should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.

You cannot meet other people you do not live with, or have not formed a support bubble with, unless for a permitted reason.

[Stay 2 metres apart](#) from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

My staff are on the front line, having had no injections, with significantly high numbers of pupils in their care since the first lockdown last March.

I do understand the challenges that parents/carers are facing in not being able to mix with other households. I know that we are all longing for the day when we can do so again. However, I must protect the safety of our community. Any known breaches will be dealt with on an individual basis based on the circumstances and this may result in your child's space in school being withdrawn. We must prioritise health and safety and do everything in our efforts as a community to reduce the spread of this awful virus.

## Half Term

With half term approaching, may I take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers for their stamina, perseverance, and huge amount of effort in delivering home learning and

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working on the front line for the Covid19 response. Everyone has a unique and important part to play in the efforts to stop the virus.

If you do have any positive cases to report, please continue to keep us updated over half term using the [covid@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@stmarysinfants.herts.sch.uk) email address so that we can track and trace as efficiently as possible.

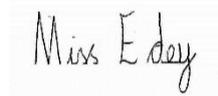
I will keep parents informed should there be any Government announcements over the break or any requirement to isolate due to positive cases.

### **Home learning**

We are keen to seek your feedback with regards to home learning and to continue to evaluate this should lock down continue for longer than anticipated. We are striving to work with our parents to make this as user friendly for our pupils and parents as we can and ensuring impact at the same time. We would really value a few minutes of your time completing our [home learning questionnaire](#). This can also be found as a link within your child's home learning group on Teams.

Thank you to you all in advance for your ongoing support. Please do take care over the break and stay safe.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miss Edey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

Miss V Edey  
Headteacher