



The Christus Catholic Trust

working in partnership for the benefit of the children and communities we serve

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Respect Ourselves, Respect
Others, Respect our School,
Love God

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, the number of cases of Covid is rising quite quickly as a result of which the Government has designated areas of the country under different Tiers 1,2 or 3.

Different rules will apply to different tiers.

As of today's date, Thurrock like Southend is Tier 1, whereas Essex is Tier 2 which is a higher risk.

The decisions have been made on Unitary authorities and not just geographical locations so, whereas Southend and Thurrock are in the county of Essex, they do not come under the authority of Essex County Council but have their own councils.

This is important to remember as it can bring confusion when families are travelling to different places in the half term holiday.

What is clear is the measures that we need to take to keep us all safe.

This is the government Advice for Medium (Tier 1)

- you must not socialise in groups larger than 6, indoors or outdoors (other than where a legal exemption applies)
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a COVID-secure manner, other than those that remain closed in law
- certain businesses are required to ensure customers only consume food and drink while seated, and must close between 10pm and 5am
- businesses and venues selling food for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- schools and universities remain open
- places of worship remain open, subject to the [rule of 6](#)
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees
- exercise classes and [organised sport](#) can continue to take place outdoors, or indoors if the [rule of 6](#) is followed; there are exceptions for supervised activities for under-18s, and disability sport

You must:

- [wear a face covering in those areas where this is mandated](#)



You should continue to:

- follow social distancing rules
 - work from home where you can effectively do so
 - when travelling, plan ahead or avoid busy times and routes; walk or cycle if you can
- (**Government document 12th October 2020**)

If we get a positive case of the virus in school we will:

- Contact the relevant authorities and acting on their instructions, contact the Parents/Carers and staff of the whole class Bubble to advise them to isolate for 14 days and get a test if they display any of the 3 symptoms which are:
- A temperature of 38 degrees or over
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss of taste and smell.

The whole class bubble will be asked to isolate as it is deemed that they have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive.

Close contact is with a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, anytime from 2 days before the person was symptomatic up to 10 days from onset of symptoms (this is when they are infectious to others).

For example, a contact can be:

- people who spend significant time in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19
- a person who has had face-to-face contact (within one metre), with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, including:
 - being coughed on
 - having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
 - having skin-to-skin physical contact, or
 - contact within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- a person who has been within 2 metres of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes
- a person who has travelled in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or in a large vehicle or plane near someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

(Public Health England)

Should a Bubble be closed and the children sent home, the class will switch to remote/online learning.

- This will include work uploaded to the school website.
- Recorded lessons such as those on Oak National Academy (please Google and see how easy this is to use)
- Class Dojo - A login will be emailed to you at the appropriate time.

When the Bubble is sent home, the rooms used will be deep cleaned and then reopened when the Bubble returns after 14 days.

I would ask any Parent/Carer to inform the school soonest should they or their child test positive for Coronavirus, to enable us to take the necessary action, and to abide by the rules as set out in the Tiers by Government. Sharing households with those from another household over half term and/or sharing cars with other families will increase the risk of transmission.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

M Jones
Headteacher

