



**Let your light shine in the world as Jesus did, with compassion, thankfulness and hope.**

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you had a restful Christmas and are ready for all that 2021 holds in store!

The beginning of term has been markedly different from what we had hoped for, and once again we find ourselves in national lockdown. This has various implications, one being that sadly we cannot all be together in school and that learning will look a little different in the coming weeks.

In school, we have been very busy indeed ensuring the best and safest possible start to the new term. We have kept up-to-date with daily published guidance and continue to update our risk assessment. We have allocated places in school for the groups of children targeted by the DfE and planned support for them, distributed Free School Meal vouchers, begun to loan laptops to families with no access, prepared online learning timetables and started our live streaming lessons. Not bad, I would say, in response to an announcement that was only shared by the Government on 1<sup>st</sup> January!

Currently, we have our critical worker and vulnerable children with us in school supported by our staff and all other children and parents are doing a sterling job at attending live lessons and uploading their daily learning. We were aware that there were always going to be a few technical difficulties, but through perseverance by all parties, we think that we have got off to a flying start.

At the moment we are providing a very thorough timetable for you to complete with your children. We have done our very best to ensure that there is minimal overlap between year groups for live lessons throughout the day so that siblings are all able to access live teaching. We have also provided a wealth of online resources which the children can access to support them with reading and mathematics. These online learning platforms are experiencing a huge amount of traffic at the moment so please do not fret if you are unable to log in. Why not read a book with them at home instead, or practice timetables or number bonds? We appreciate that it is difficult juggling work, home life and home learning and your feedback has been very helpful for us to plan to continue to be able to support your children remotely.

Thank you for all your effort and support in this transitional period. We know that new routines take a while to get into, and over the coming weeks we will be making adaptations where necessary to support both you and your children. If you have any questions regarding learning from home over the coming weeks please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can try to trouble shoot any future complications together.

I think that it is also very important to say a huge thank you to all our teachers and staff. They have worked tirelessly to provide a learning-rich and safe return to school. They are a fantastic team and we are very fortunate indeed to have them to support to lead our school community in this next part of our journey.

With our current focus on moving forwards as safely and supportively as possible, we do also need to reflect on the progress we have made over the past year. It has not been easy for anyone and we need to celebrate the strength and resilience that we have built. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the cards and gifts given to staff – this was very kind of you. In addition, a big thank you to our Friends of St George's, who managed to raise almost £1000 in their auction event.

We will continue to share relevant updates over the coming weeks and do everything within our power to keep our whole school community as safe as possible. Please remember that even though your child is learning from home we are here for you and please do get in touch if you need to.

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With warmest wishes to you and your loved ones.

**Miss Petra Slater, Headteacher**

## **DATE FOR THE CALENDAR**

### **Spring Term 2021**

**Half Term Holiday Monday 15th February—Friday 19th February**

**Term Ends Thursday 1st April**

## **PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.  
Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty; help me fill it with good things.  
Each new day filled with joy and happiness it brings.

**Amen**

## **COVID UPDATE**

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

## **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

## **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

*Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**Hands**

- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

**Face**

- Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

**Space**

- Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.
- Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.
- Limit social gatherings (including abiding by the 'rule of 6') and avoid crowded places.

**Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>