



Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy  
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Headteacher: Mrs C Toner

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to have a good break this Christmas and that you and your extended families are keeping well, especially if you have been/are currently affected by Covid in your household.

Thankfully, despite the sharp rise in cases across the country, schools remain open and I hope and pray it remains this way. To give you a picture of the situation in school, we currently we have 9 staff and around 30 children off for covid related reasons. As you can appreciate, it is a constant challenge to ensure classes are adequately staffed with such high absence and I am very grateful to the staff team for their flexibility in these challenging circumstances.

In order that we can keep everyone as safe as possible and keep outbreaks to a minimum, we have measures in place across school, detailed below, and these remain under constant review. We will continue to keep you informed of any cases in school via the Warn and Inform letters and will liaise closely with the Our Lady of Lourdes Trust and Public Health England should there be any outbreaks of Covid in school.

### **Collective Worship and Celebration Assemblies**

These will take place in classrooms for the next two weeks (and then review) to avoid year group mixing.

### **Non-Essential Visitors**

The guidance on this changed just before the Christmas break and it remains in place that schools are not permitted to welcome non-essential visitors, including parents, into school. However, in some circumstances – for meetings etc – it may be deemed necessary to meet face-to-face.

### **Parents' Evenings**

These take place the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February and will be virtual using the same online system as in October. As promised, for this meeting, you will each be allocated a longer time of 10 minutes and will shortly receive information via the school office on how to book your slot.

### **Ventilation**

Each class now has a Co2 monitor which tracks the air flow in the classroom. In order to keep this within a 'safe' range it is necessary to keep classrooms well ventilated with windows and doors open at times during the school day. I appreciate that this means classrooms may feel cold and especially so at this time of year. Please ensure children come to school dressed appropriately e.g. with thermal vests and leggings on under their uniform. Children are of course permitted to put an

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additional layer on if they feel cold and can bring an extra jumper/hoodie to school with them for this purpose.

### **Masks**

Staff continue to wear masks around school and, when necessary, in classrooms too. Can I please request that, if you are able to do so, you wear a mask when dropping off and picking children up from school.

### **Admissions to Reception class – September 2022**

For those of you who have children due to start Reception class in September 2022, please be reminded that the closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please complete your application online via the Nottinghamshire County Council or Nottingham City Council's website, depending on your address. Ensure you submit the Supplementary Form and, if applicable, any evidence of religion to each individual school applied for.

### **Nursery admissions**

We are so pleased with how quickly the Nursery is growing. We admitted 11 new children yesterday and they have already settled in so well. We are hoping to appoint a new member of staff in the near future so that we can grow even more! If you, or anyone you know has a child who might be interested in attending, please contact Katie Dickson our Nursery teacher via the school office who will be happy to chat 'all things Nursery!'

### **Reporting absence**

Please ensure you report your child's absence to school, via phone or MyEd, by 9.30am at the latest.

### **Lunchtime and after-school clubs**

There has been a slight change to these, due to timetabling constraints in school this term - please see below. Information will be sent out to relevant year groups later today regarding booking onto the after-school clubs starting next week. We hope to resume the after-school club for Y1 & 2 next term.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Lunchtime Club</b>	<b>After-school Club</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Y5 & 6 boys football	Y5 & 6 dodgeball
<b>Wednesday</b>	None	Y3 & 4 dodgeball
<b>Thursday</b>	Y5 & 6 girls football	Irish Dancing

Many thanks as always for your support and diligence in dealing with the ever-changing Covid situation. I know that many of you are facing your own challenges; whether this be protecting the vulnerable in your households, managing stresses within your own employment or feeling unwell from the virus itself. Please be assured of my continued prayers for all in our community.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Celine Toner

Headteacher