



22nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half term I wanted to update you on the events in school.

Covid update

We have had remarkably few positive tests of pupils and staff in school leading up to half term but inevitably, we dealt with our first cases recently. When we are informed of a case by parents and carers we seek to trace the close contacts of that pupil and reduce the number of pupils who have to self-isolate as a result. It is for this reason that we have pupils kept within their year group bubbles and, wherever possible, we have a consistent seating plan which tells us who a pupil was close to.

I want to remind everyone that if a pupil displays symptoms, they should not come into school. They should take a test and should continue to self-isolate until that test result is known. You should not wait for the result of the test before keeping your child off from school. By doing this, we hope to reduce the number of pupils who have to self-isolate. Equally, if anyone in the household is showing symptoms, the pupil should not come into school and self-isolate until the result of the test is known.

I should also remind everyone that if you are instructed to self-isolate by the NHS test and trace, this is legal requirement not guidance.

Remote learning

Our remote learning is now becoming well-established with 'live teaching' being part of the pupils' experience when they are self-isolating. I do want to remind everyone that there are still clear expectations of standards and contact while being taught at home and that the schools' behaviour policy will be used in the very small number of cases where pupils struggle to cope with the responsibility.

Uniform

After half term the uniform reverts to black tights as opposed to white knee length socks. I would also strongly encourage pupils to wear an appropriate, outdoor coat. Details are available on the website: <http://www.stbedesblackburn.com/uniform/>

School will be closed from today at 3.30pm and we reopen in **Tuesday 3rd November**.

Yours sincerley

D Callaghan
Headteacher