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[www.st-wilfrids.org](http://www.st-wilfrids.org)

6th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## September Return to School

I hope you and your families are well and have enjoyed the summer break. I am writing to remind you of some of the changes in how school will be operating when we return this week.

### Mixing and Bubbles

We are no longer required to operate a 'bubble' structure in school. This will allow us to return to a more normal way of delivering the curriculum as year groups will no longer be in fixed rooms of the school. This will allow for a return to full specialist facilities in Science, Music, Art and Technology. Year groups will no longer have separate entrances to the school site – they are able to use either the main drive or the footpath opposite the Grey Hen to access school.

However, we will retain some of the positive features of the 'bubble' structure, for example staggered break and lunchtimes for year groups.

### Face Coverings

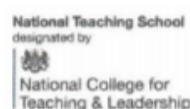
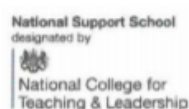
Students and staff are no longer required to wear face coverings in school but we strongly recommend that our students and staff continue to do so, particularly in communal areas. With the removal of bubbles, year groups will be mixing in corridors so we feel that wearing face coverings will help to reduce the chance of transmission of the virus. Should there be an outbreak of Covid in school a decision may be made in conjunction with Public Health to reinstate face coverings temporarily in classrooms and communal areas.

Face coverings will continue to be required on school buses and public transport.

### Control Measures

The most recent Government guidance specifies four control measures that schools should continue to implement:

1. Ensure good hand and respiratory hygiene for everyone
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolating and managing confirmed cases of Covid 19.



**Northern Saints**  
Teaching School Alliance



Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust

Excellentia per fidem, per scientiam, per adiuvatum

## **Tracing, Close Contacts and Isolation**

Schools are no longer required to undertake contact tracing other than in exceptional circumstances. NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts.

Children under the age of 18 years and 6 months old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Instead children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. They do not have to isolate either before the test or while waiting for the result.

Students will not have to miss school because they are self-isolating as a contact of a positive case unless they test positive themselves.

## **Asymptomatic Testing**

Students with parental consent for testing should report to school in their full school uniform at their allocated time please.

Testing timetables for Year 7 students can be found here: <https://www.st-wilfrids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Year-7-On-Site-Lateral-Flow-Testing.pdf>

Testing timetables for Years 8-13 can be found here: <https://www.st-wilfrids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Y8-13-On-Site-Lateral-Flow-Testing.pdf>

As in March, this testing is voluntary and no students will be prevented from returning to school if they do not take part in on-site testing.

**Please note that any student who has had Covid within the last 90 days is not required to conduct asymptomatic testing.**

Following these onsite tests students are strongly encouraged to continue twice weekly testing at home and the government will review this at the end of September.

We are all looking forward to the start of the new school year and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



Mrs D Ritchie

Acting Head of School