



St Philomena's

Catholic High School for Girls

Chair of Governors: Dr Mary Howard BDS
Headteacher: Ms M Noone BSc (Hons) MBA

7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Attendance today was 96% with 52 students not registered. Please could I ask you once again to reiterate the need for your daughter to register on time, as today we had over 100 students sign in late. The high expectations of the school remain the same whether students are attending school remotely or in person. The routine and consistent approach to education will not only help your daughter now, but also with the transition back to school, as soon as she is able to.

Mass Testing

Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD) enables the identification of asymptomatic positive cases of COVID-19 which is then confirmed with a PCR test. This will help to identify positive cases in the school and allow them to self isolate reducing the possibility of transmission to the rest of the community.

The Governors met on 5th January to discuss the implementation of the LFD testing and agreed that the school would set up a testing location in the school to carry out asymptomatic testing of consenting students and staff.

Due to there currently being only a limited number of students in the school we will initially be carrying out weekly testing of the students and staff in school where we have consent. We will be looking to test all consenting staff and students, when they return to school after the National Lockdown. In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with a positive case/s can be tested daily in school for seven days to allow them to remain in school if they test negative.

You will shortly receive a Consent Form for your daughter, I would ask that you read this through with her explaining to her the importance of testing and what it will involve. Further information on how the test is conducted can be found [here](#).

School Streets Scheme

As announced on the Sutton Council website, the School Streets schemes in Sutton will not be operating during the National Lockdown and will not be enforced. Signage has been covered to make this clear to residents. This policy will be reviewed in line with national guidelines when schools are scheduled to reopen.

Whilst we understand that many families currently accessing school are choosing not to use public transport, please can I ask that you are mindful of the local community when dropping off and collecting your daughter. You should not block driveways, school gates or let your daughter get out of the car in the middle of the road.





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Supporting your daughter during the coronavirus pandemic

Please see below two links that might help you with tips, advice and where to get support for your daughter's mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as supporting her with a daily routine.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Resources_for_parents/Supporting_home_learning_routines_-_Planning_the_day.pdf

Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children

Schools, academy trusts and local authorities can now request help to [increase mobile data allowances](#) for children and young people who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face to face education

Schools can also make requests for children who cannot attend school face-to-face because they are clinically extremely vulnerable or restrictions prevent them from going to school.

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option for some children, schools can also [request 4G wireless routers](#). If this is something that you feel would benefit your family please contact the school via the enquiries@stphils.org.uk email address and we will try our best to support you.

BBC Educational Programming

From Monday 11 January, CBBC, BBC Two, BBC iPlayer and BBC Red Button will all be offering different content for students including daily lessons which will be made available online too.

The CBBC channel will have a three-hour block of primary school programmes from 9am. This will include programmes from BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily as well as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and Operation Ouch

BBC Two will run at least two hours worth of educational programming for secondary students every weekday, which will include adaptations of Shakespeare plays as well as science and history programmes

As we approach the end of the first week of the Spring A Term, I would like to thank you for the kind words of support and appreciation the school has received, it is greatly appreciated during this difficult and challenging time.

I pray that you and your family remain safe and well.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Noone
Headteacher

