

**St Andrew's Church of England Primary School**  
**Crescent Avenue**  
**Over Hulton**  
**Bolton**  
**BL5 1EN**



**Head Teacher: Mr Simon Charnock**

22/01/2021

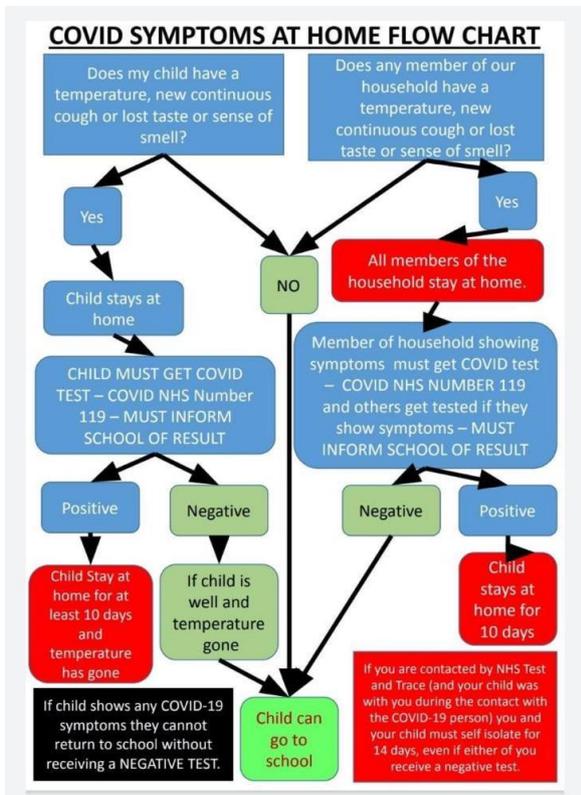
Dear Parents and carers,

Yet again, we would like to send our sincerest thanks for your continued messages of support during these extremely difficult and challenging times and some lovely and thoughtful tokens of gratitude.

We are very proud of the work that our school has done since the start of the pandemic to ensure that pupils have access to their educational entitlement, whether at home or at school. To everyone who has helped to protect education during this challenging time: thank you – you are a credit to the children and community you serve. Delivering and responding to remote learning via Microsoft Teams is often taking our teachers well into the evening and I thank them for this.

However, we especially acknowledge that home learning is not easy for families – we are incredibly appreciative of the work you are doing to support us in our role as co-educators especially whilst many are also working and whilst ‘running a home and bringing up a family’. Nevertheless, if you have any problems at all that we can help with, please contact us via the main office.

We are very fortunate to have not needed to close any of our class bubbles down but could we continue to remind everyone:-



- When dropping off your child, please always maintain social distancing, standing two metres apart if you are waiting. At pick-up, maintain a 2m distance from anyone else on the school premises and keep the school exits clear so that our children can exit safely.
- Please could Reception parents wear a face covering or mask when picking up the children from outside the Reception class doors.
- If your child displays any symptoms which may be covid-19 related, please keep them at home and inform the school, booking a PCR test for them.



Last week, the government announced that LFD test kits would be made available for all staff in primary schools, of which we have now taken delivery. All adults in school now have the opportunity to test twice weekly, so that those who may be asymptomatic can isolate, should we require, in everyone's continued efforts to stop 'the spread.'

We continue to request that parents and carers also follow guidance issued from the DfE. Significantly, this guidance states:

*"Your child's school or college will speak to you to identify whether your child needs to attend. **You should keep your child at home if you can...**"*

The guidance on critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings clarifies that parents and carers who are critical workers **should keep their children at home if they can** because, *"we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce all our social contacts wherever possible."*

We shared last week the letter from Bolton Council that further reinforced this in their press release. Please consider whether you can keep your child at home to reduce the chance of community transmission of the coronavirus.

The Bolton Public Health advice is to 'act like you have it' when considering interaction with others. The case rates amongst all age groups have exponentially increased in Bolton over recent weeks.

#### **REMOTE LEARNING & MICROSOFT TEAMS:**

Thank you to all who are embracing their home learning. We have contacted those small numbers who are finding access difficult and issued devices where this is necessary. The five allotted devices from government arrived in school recently and are now allocated. We are also thankful to members of the church community who have donated laptops and tablets for this use, which have been wiped and set up for home learning use.

Schools have statutory obligations and expectations:-

- Key Stage 1: 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
- Key Stage 2: 4 hours a day.
- We set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects. We are committed to the entitlement of every child to a broad, rich, high-quality education, including during this pandemic. Daily remote learning covers at least Maths, English and another subject. The remote education curriculum is aligned to the classroom curriculum as much as possible. And, just like the classroom curriculum, it is carefully sequenced and ensures that pupils obtain the building blocks they need to move on to the next step.
- Our Remote Learning Provision overview is available via our Policies page on our website

Our younger children have greater teacher input, with older pupils expected to be writing independently for longer sessions. The teacher is available throughout the day, via Teams Chat and the two live sessions in the morning and the afternoon, to respond to their questions.

All children must access and complete their daily assignments set by their teacher and submit them by 4 pm unless there are circumstances meaning that this cannot be met. Please speak to your child's teacher if this is the case.

We are now carefully monitoring that children's work is a true reflection of their ability in the current circumstances so we expect that children still submit work that is their best. Please could parents ensure that the pictures taken of their work are 'in focus' too – an increasing number of photographs of work are difficult to read and therefore feedback is also difficult.



**READING:** We have now invested in an additional subscription to Oxford Owl which has opened up many more reading books for the children that are related to the progression found in the school's Reading Scheme. Children can now access up to 40 books for every book band level. All children accessing the reading scheme can continue to access reading books remotely using the same pass code. **Further information will be sent by Mrs Bainbridge on Monday.**

**KS2 SATs:** The Secretary of State confirmed in a response to a question in the House that Key Stage 2 SATs will not be proceeding in 2021. STA will be confirming the detail on primary assessments to schools shortly.

**MEALS:** The DfE has amended guidance on providing school meals during the current lockdown and has confirmed that meals should be available free of charge to:

- all infant pupils who are in school
- pupils who meet the benefits-related free school meals eligibility criteria

The national voucher scheme is to be reintroduced, and school will inform you when we are equipped with the necessary information. Eligible pupils will receive FSM to the value of £15 per week.

Staff are working very hard to support you with all of this and we do understand that home learning can be stressful at times. We want to assure you that, whilst it is important your children continue to receive ongoing education, it is also about finding the right balance and working in ways that best meet the needs of your family. Again, if you have any questions about remote home learning, or if you need any support, your child's teachers are always there to help. Please remember it's always ok to take a break.

Please also remind yourselves of the Online Safety rules and our Remote and Home Learning Policy that is still available on our website at

[http://www.standrewsbolton.co.uk/serve\\_file/909432](http://www.standrewsbolton.co.uk/serve_file/909432)

### **Health, Behaviour and Well-being**

Please also remember that we still have the [pastoral@standrewsoh.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@standrewsoh.bolton.sch.uk) address if you have any emotional or mental health issues that you would like to share or need help with. Staff accessing these emails are Level 2 qualified in Children and Adult Health First Aid.

Please continue to take good care, stay safe and stay well. We are still missing the children so it is very much appreciated when we see them during either, or both, of their Teams sessions. Please do not be surprised if the children's teacher contacts you if we don't see you online for a few days – we will endeavour to make sure everything is as well as it can be with you at home.

Let's continue to pray that we will be back together soon, whenever that might be.

Kind Regards

Simon Charnock

Headteacher

