

St George's C of E (VA) Infant and Nursery School
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Friday 18th September

Dear Parents,

This week the children have benefited from playing outside at break-time and lunchtime, often in warm and settled weather. It has been refreshing to hear their laughter and observe their exuberant play. The benefits of this aspect of a child's development are immeasurable. In a tightly scheduled world, the need for play has never been greater. Through play, children learn how to solve problems and develop their ability to positively interact with others.

Since our return to school, the children have benefited from an increase in space on the playground due to the re-structuring of the school day: There has been a reduction in the number of children playing at any given time. The children appear to be taking full advantage of this increased freedom!

With the weather set fair for the week-end, I hope that we all get the chance to enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors. Please see below for updates.

Best wishes,

Mr. Jim Williams (Executive Headteacher)

1. Further advice and guidance on pupil illness / Covid-19 procedures

As the result of a relatively large number of telephone calls made this week to both schools by parents seeking advice relating to pupil illness, I felt that it would be useful to provide you with an update in relation to school attendance / pupil sickness.

At the start of a new school year it is inevitable that children will develop common colds e.g. runny nose and coughs. In the first instance, we ask that you monitor them closely for a 24 hour period.

If within this time they develop one or more of covid-19 symptoms, please inform the school office, self-isolate and book a test. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- i. a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - ii. a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - iii. a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If your child or anyone in your household develops one or more of the symptoms above, then they must isolate for 10 days. The household must self-isolate for 14 days.



- Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. If you are unable to book a local slot then you can email d-ccg.devon.urgenttesting@nhs.net making clear the test is for a child attending a Devon School and you will be supported to access local testing.

NEGATIVE TEST RESULT

If the test is negative and they are well enough, your child may come back to school. Other members of the household can stop self-isolating.

POSITIVE TEST RESULT

If the child tests positive they must isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms first began. They should not return to school until their temperature has returned to normal. The household of the case needs to isolate for 14 days. Please inform school immediately.

Public Health England are extremely likely to then advise that the class or year group bubble, who will have been in close contact with the confirmed case, need to be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days.

2. Pick-up and drop-off

Your support of the request to wear a face covering during this time whilst on the school sites is greatly appreciated. If, as part of the 'goodbye' routine you wish to give your child a hug and a kiss then please continue to do so.

3. Year 5 and 6 Parents: Bideford College virtual open events

These events will take place next week (21.09.20) Visit the Bideford College website or Facebook page for information www.bidefordcollege.org Further details regarding transition can be found at <https://bidefordcollege.org/transition-information/>

Alternatively contact Mrs Jewell (Assistant Principal) ajewell@bidefordcollege.org

4. Newsletter

I look forward to communicating with you next week via a new version of the traditional newsletter. Watch this space!

Our aim is to send this out via email. If you did not receive the test email sent out earlier this week please contact the school office. If you have yet to provide an active email address or you are unable to provide us with an email address then also please contact the school office.