



St. Matthew's Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr Tony Davies

Friday 23rd October

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the half term, I would like to share some important information with you all. Before that, though, I would first like to say an enormous thank you for all the support that parents and carers have given us over the past few weeks. It has been a testing time for everyone and will continue to be in the months ahead, but all the supportive messages we have received have given us a huge lift, alongside your patience and cooperation with staggered start and finish times. Your children have been amazing in the way they have adapted to make the school run as safely as possible. And I really do want to put on record my thanks to all of our staff who have worked incredibly hard in difficult circumstances to make things work. I don't think I have ever been so proud of our school community.

As I said above, it is likely to continue to be a testing time over the months ahead. Infection rates locally and nationally are rising and it is even more important that we follow the measures that we have put in place to do everything we can to reduce the risk of infection in our school community. That relates to our behaviours both in and out of school. Below I highlight a few important points.

Face Masks

Thank you to those parents who are wearing face masks when they bring children to school. This is VERY IMPORTANT to both reduce risk of infection and to make everyone feel safe. As infection rates rise we want all parents and carers who can to wear a mask or other face covering that covers the mouth and nose when they come to school. **This includes those parents who might not come onto the school site or cross through a gate (e.g. those dropping off at Nursery).** We know that there are a few parents and carers who cannot wear a mask for health reasons. That is of course fine, but really ask everyone else to wear a mask.

If you do not do this, you risk becoming a contact with other parents and carers and also school staff and making it more likely that class bubbles may have to close. We do not want staff having to isolate or bubbles having to close when simple precautions can make a big difference. If you are not wearing a mask, I will be asking my staff who are on the gates at the beginning and end of the day to ask you to wear one.

Travel Corridors

If you are travelling abroad during the half term holiday, you will need to quarantine for 14 days unless you are visiting one of the countries in the “travel corridors” designated by the government. This includes if your journey includes a [transit stop](#) at one of the countries not on the travel corridor list. Full guidance from the government can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Contact Tracing over Half Term

If a child in school becomes a **confirmed case of coronavirus over the coming weekend** (Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October), it is important that we know immediately so that we can contact parents and carers of other children within that bubble. **If this happens to your child on either Saturday or Sunday, please call the following mobile number - 07535255399.** We will then send a text message to those within the class bubble to alert them and send email messages to parents and carers to advise them what needs to be done. This would almost certainly be to inform you that your child would need to self-isolate for fourteen days (in that instance the rest of the family would not need to self-isolate unless someone in the house developed symptoms).

From Monday 26th October onwards, any child developing symptoms and then testing positive will not be considered to have been infectious while they were at school. This means that the other people in their bubble will not be a contact for the infectious person and we will therefore not need to notify them that they need to begin self-isolation.

Please be aware that the mobile number is for alerting the school about **confirmed cases of coronavirus only**. Please do not use the number for any other purpose.

If you are just waiting for a test result over half term, just let the school office know by emailing office@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk in the usual way. You only need to call the mobile in the event of a positive test result if symptoms have developed on Saturday or Sunday.

Returning to School After Self-isolation

Please remember to email any negative test results to the school office before your child returns to school. This prevents us having to pull a child out of class while we chase up parents and carers to make sure they are safe to be back at school. That can be worrying for everyone, including the child.

Safe Behaviour Out of School

Attached to this email are some posters from Cambridgeshire Local Authority to promote the right behaviours for children playing and meeting up after school. There is one that also covers children having sleepovers. These have just arrived in school and we are going to print them out and put them up in classrooms, but you might want to talk to your children about them too. They can also be found on the “Keeping Safe” pages in the Coronavirus section of our website -

There is also a note from the Cambridgeshire Local Authority about activities for Halloween, in particular alternatives to trick or treating.

One Week Half Term Break

Finally, confirmation that the half term holiday will be **ONE WEEK ONLY**. The **first day back to school will be Monday 2nd November**.

Once again, thank you for all your help and support and I hope you have a good half term.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'T'.

Tony Davies
Head Teacher