



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Friday 28th May, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you are looking forward to the half term break. We have finally reached the end of the first half of the summer term. It has been such a joy and a pleasure seeing the children all engaged in their learning and enjoying spending time together after the challenges that the past year has brought us all. Thank you for helping your children to return with such a positive mindset – they are all a great credit to you. We would also like to reiterate our thanks to you for your partnership during the time of lockdown and throughout this current period, in which we are bridging pathways to new learning for your children.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE:



At our school, we aspire to provide the very best experiences for the children we serve. We want our children to enjoy coming to our school so that they can learn to love and love to learn with Jesus. As part of our on-going self-evaluation and review, we are very keen to hear what our parent community thinks about our school, by helping us to identify what we do well and what we could improve on. We will use the constructive feedback to help to build on our successes and improve on our provision. We are asking all of our families to complete the short questionnaire about the school over the half term break by using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Vt2cHzjX0km0UEdJX9ix5oObmq3CfFLLhPPJsMoXUftUOU5UWUdGUkhBSINSQUtQUEIYMIhVU0FVVC4u>

Your support with this is very much appreciated.

REPORTING POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19 DURING THE HALF TERM BREAK

As part of our ongoing battle against Covid-19, the Department for Education and Public Health England have requested that schools continue to help with contact tracing for a number of days after our school closes on Friday 28th May 2021. Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following update with you ahead of the half-term break.

Thank you all so much for playing your part and helping to keep case rates of Covid-19 low in Hertfordshire. During half-term, and as restrictions ease more generally, it's more important than ever that we follow current guidance to help keep each other safe and our nurseries, schools and colleges free from outbreaks.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Reminder of some of the latest guidance from 17 May:

- 6 people, or two households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible) can now meet indoors and up to 30 people can gather outside;
- If you are meeting with family and friends, the government is asking that you personally consider the risks associated with COVID-19 when deciding on things like wearing face coverings and social distancing for both you and your children;
- Restaurants, pubs and cafes can reopen and so can indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, bowling alleys, museums and children's indoor play areas. All of these services will have COVID-secure measures in place, please encourage your children to follow the rules when out and about

Travelling within the UK:

If you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential (for work or education).

You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

Travelling internationally from England:

There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to countries or territories on the red or amber lists.

If you do need to travel to an Amber destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and;

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test;
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return;
- Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period.

Any student with symptoms of Covid-19 or feeling unwell should take a PCR test immediately and not attend school.

Parents and carers of children of school age are also encouraged to take regular rapid tests. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest.

Support for families:

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

ENJOY YOUR HALF TERM:

Please remember that the second half of the summer term begins on **Monday 7th June**. We eagerly look forward to welcoming back all of our families after the well-deserved rest over the half term – hopefully feeling recharged and refreshed for the final six weeks of the academic year!

As always, we thank you for your continued support and co-operation in this most unprecedented of years. Remain blessed and keep safe during this half term break.

Kind regards,

Richard Curry