



Rainhill St Ann's CE Primary School
 View Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0LQ
 Tel 0151 426 5869, www.rainhillstanns.co.uk
 Email: stannsce@three-saints.org.uk
 Twitter: [@StAnnsRainhill](https://twitter.com/StAnnsRainhill)
 Headteacher: Mrs Laura Rynn



Together, we aim high; with God's love, we can fly.

Monday 30 August 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

BACK TO SCHOOL

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the summer holiday and everyone has had a chance for some rest and relaxation. As we approach the beginning of a new school year (Thursday 2 September 2021), I thought it would be helpful to send out a reminder of our 'back to school' plans as they stand today. The government updated its guidance for schools on 17 August 2021. If any further changes are made before our return, I will write out to you again.

Mixing & Bubbles

The government no longer recommends keeping children in consistent groups (bubbles). Although we do not intend on re-introducing whole school activities/ events just yet, this does mean we have more flexibility. Staggered starts and finishes will cease, some classes will work, play, worship and eat together once again, clubs and visits will recommence, Base will operate as normal and we may even be able to re-introduce some low-key events which we can invite parents to. However, if there is a local, school or class outbreak, following advice, it may be necessary to re-introduce 'bubbles' for a temporary period, as well as some or all of the control measures we have had in place during the past year. These decisions will not be taken lightly.

Close Contacts & Isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test & Trace and school will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. NHS Test & Trace will work with the parents/ carers of the positive case to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of close contact.

Individuals are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). **We would strongly encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.**

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal, even while waiting for the results of a PCR test (*as long as they are not showing any symptoms and have not tested positive on a LFD test*). They do not need to wear a face covering within school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public transport.

What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)





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- loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the www.nhs.uk website, through <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119 (NHS Test & Trace) if you do not have internet access. If your child has any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, they should self-isolate immediately and should not attend school. **Please phone school to tell us that your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are waiting for a COVID-19 PCR test result.**

What should I do if my child's COVID-19 PCR test has come back positive?

Anyone with a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should self-isolate until the latest of:

- 10 days after the start of their covid symptoms, or
- 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out-of-school activities or visit a friend's house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care. **Please phone school and tell us if your child has a positive COVID-19 PCR test result. It is really important you let us know if your child has COVID-19, so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.**

What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19?

If your child (aged under 18 years and 6 months) does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell), they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19. They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days. Children aged 5 and under do not need to take a PCR test unless they live with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) test?

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. Other people who live in the same house do not need to self-isolate whilst you wait for the PCR test result, as long as they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

What should I do if my child is unwell but doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms?

Your child should not come to school if they are unwell. If you are worried, speak to your GP or a pharmacist, who will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend they stay at home for 48 hours or until they are well. At the moment children do not need to get a PCR test if they do not have any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. Last week the Director of Public Health for St Helens wrote out to all school stating that COVID-19 rates have remained high across St Helens during the last month and rates are currently higher than the national and regional average. There is great concern that there will be further spread of the virus once schools and colleges re-open, and that this will impact on the children's education once again. With this in mind schools have been asked to distribute test kits to all families and they are urging families to test at least twice





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weekly between 1st – 17th September inclusive. As soon as we are in receipt of the tests, these will be sent home in the children's book bags. Thank you for your support with this very important matter.

When extra action may be taken

If the number of positive cases substantially increases, this could indicate that transmission is happening in school. The following thresholds will be used to determine if this is likely:

- 5 children or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

At the point of reaching a threshold, school will seek further public health advice. A director of public health or the local health protection team may give school advice reflecting the local situation. If rates are high in the area, this may include advice that local circumstances mean that the thresholds for action can be higher than those set out above. Protective measures in place will be reviewed and additional control measures may be taken temporarily. These decisions will not be taken lightly.

Control Measures

At school we will continue to:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone including hand washing and respiratory hygiene
2. Maintain our cleaning regimes
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19

Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all pupils. Holidays during term time will continue to be unauthorised and parents should bear in mind the impact on their child's education which may result from any requirement to quarantine and isolate upon return, in addition to the holiday itself.

Remote Education

School will continue to deliver remote education for pupils who are well but need to self-isolate because they have tested positive for Covid-19.

Educational Visits & Residential

As risk assessments allow, visits and residential will resume. However, in the event of changes nationally or locally, it may be necessary to change the original arrangements, postpone the visit or even cancel altogether. Isolating children will not be able to participate.

School Uniform Expectations & PE Kits

Children should return to school wearing correct school uniform, black shoes (not trainers) no jewellery (including clear, plastic earrings/ retainers), minimal hair accessories in school colours and no nail varnish.

From week commencing 6 September, children should wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE (see below). Children in Y1-Y6 should bring to school their regulation book bag, a clear plastic bottle of water and lunch box (if required).





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CLASS PE DAYS	Day 1	Day 2
EYP	Tuesday	Wednesday
EYR	Tuesday	Wednesday
1A	Wednesday	Thursday
1H	Wednesday	Thursday
2H	Wednesday	Friday
2T	Wednesday	Friday
3C	Monday	Friday
3E	Monday	Friday
4B	Monday	Thursday
4P	Monday	Thursday
5D	Tuesday	Thursday
5H	Tuesday	Thursday
6O	Tuesday	Friday
6FM	Tuesday	Friday

Snack

If you chose not to pay for your child to have toast at snack time each day, don't forget they can bring either toast, fruit or veg from home to have instead (the cut off for toast was 16 July 2021). No other food items are permitted.

Drop Off & Collection Arrangement

Staggered starts and finishes will cease.

Morning Drop Off

- School will start for all pupils at **8.50am**.
- School gates will open at **8.40am** and be locked at 8.50am prompt.
- Anyone arriving after 8.50am will need to enter school via the main entrance.
- Anyone who enters via the main entrance will be marked in the register as late.
- All pupils should enter the school gates and enter their classroom via their classroom door.
- Parents/ carers can accompany Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils to their classroom door.
- Y3 – Y6 pupils should walk through the gates unaccompanied.
- Pupils/ parents can access the school site via either the front or back gate.





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	Start of Day	End of Day	Drop Off	Collection Point
Base	From 8.00am	Up to 6.00pm	Blue Base door at the front of school to the right of the main entrance	
Early Years	8.50am	3.15pm	Early Years play area at the back of school. Parents/carers should wait in the Early Years Play Area at the back of school.	
Year 1	8.50am	3.15pm	Classroom door on main yard. Parents/carers should wait on main playground.	
Class 2H	8.50am	3.15pm	Classroom door on main yard. Parents/carers should wait on main playground.	
Class 2T	8.50am	3.15pm	Classroom door behind hall. Parents/carers should wait behind the hall at the back of school.	
Year 3	8.50am	3.20pm	Children enter classroom via doors in Early Years play area	Year 3 classroom doors. Parents/carers should wait in the Early Years Play Area at the back of school.
Year 4	8.50am	3.20pm	Children enter classroom via doors to the right of the near Memorial Garden at the front of school.	Main entrance. Parents/ carers should wait in the front playground area to the right of the main entrance.
Year 5	8.50am	3.20pm	Children enter classroom via door to the left of the Memorial Garden at the front of school.	Year 5 door. Parents/ carers should wait in front of the Memorial Garden opposite Y5 door at the front of school.
Year 6	8.50am	3.20pm	Children enter via door at the back of the Memorial Garden at the front of school.	Year 1 door on the main playground. Parents/ carers should wait on main playground.

I hope after reading this letter you feel updated about the current position for schools in relation to COVID-19, and that you have the information you require prior to your child returning to school on Thursday 2 September. The parents of Early Years children should bear in mind communication about arrangements sent out prior to the summer holiday.

Don't forget, each time our COVID-19 Risk Assessment is updated, it is uploaded onto our school website. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It is also worth bearing in mind that the operational guidance the DfE has set out for primary schools, is subject to change. As always, we will endeavour to keep you fully informed and up date you at the earliest opportunity.

I hope you keep safe and well and I thank you again for continuing to support the measures we have in place.

We look forward to seeing you all again shortly.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Laura Rynn
 Headteacher

