



**Rainhill St Ann's CE Primary School**  
 View Road, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0LQ  
 Tel 0151 426 5869, [www.rainhillstanns.co.uk](http://www.rainhillstanns.co.uk)  
 Email: [stannsce@three-saints.org.uk](mailto: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.

Wednesday 5 January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

### Re: COVID-19 Update

Happy New Year – good health and happiness for 2022. I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well, and follows an enjoyable Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to re-opening on Monday 10 January, and in anticipation of the children's return, please find below the latest COVID-19 update.

#### COVID-19 testing prior to return to school

As a result of the high rates of COVID-19 in Rainhill and other surrounding areas, an LFD mobile testing unit has been organised to be on our school site on Friday 7 January 2022, 9.30-2.30pm, prior to our return. It is a walk-in site; no need to book an appointment. The mobile testing unit will be located in the hall. To access, walk down the driveway at the front of school. The test site ID is **BOEL**. St Helens Council will send out further communication about the mobile testing site in due course. Please check the contents of their letter in case any changes are made to the arrangements. The rationale is to identify asymptomatic children/ household members who are COVID-19 positive to prevent the virus coming into school unknowingly. We would strongly encourage all children and families to take up the opportunity in an effort to protect face to face education. We would be extremely grateful if any children and families who cannot attend, undertake a LFD test at home. Children identified as positive should not return to school, and inform school in the usual way ([stannsce@three-saints.org.uk](mailto:stannsce@three-saints.org.uk) or 0151 426 5869).

#### Self-isolation for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (correct at the time of writing)

Symptomatic children should not attend school, should take a LFD test and arrange to have a PCR test. Children identified as positive should not return to school. Symptoms include a continuous cough, loss of or change to taste and smell and a high temperature. The new Omicron variant reportedly presents a different set of symptoms; fatigue, headaches, sore throat, and while these are not officially confirmed, if your child shows any of these symptoms, we would strongly encourage you to test your child in this instance too.

The 10 day self-isolation period for people who test positive for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in **most circumstances**, unless you cannot test for any reason (then it remains at 10 days). Individuals may now take LFD





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tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

### Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### Remote Education

Our priority is to keep school open and children continuing to receive face-to-face education. However, as rates of COVID-19 remain high, the availability of staff may make this difficult. Where workforce issues arise, we will use existing teaching, temporary and support staff flexibly in our efforts to prevent classes/ school from closing. As pupils do not need to be kept in consistent groups, it may be necessary to combine classes. Where there is a need for remote education, this will continue to be available through Microsoft Teams (Tapestry for EYs). This will be a last resort, and will only be used in the short term until school is sufficiently staffed once again.

### Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for at-risk 5 to 11 year olds

On Wednesday 22 December, the government accepted advice from the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\)](#) that a primary course of vaccination should be offered to children aged 5 to 11 years old who are in a clinical risk group, or who are a household contact of someone (of any age) who is immunosuppressed. The NHS is working through updated guidance and will set out how this is going to be operationalised shortly. Vaccines are the best weapon against this virus. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of infection, helps break chains of





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transmission and is safe and effective – and the government encourage all those eligible to consider taking up the offer.

**BASE – Breakfast & After School Club**

Base will re-open on Monday 10 January as planned. The impact of BASE on school will remain under constant review, and any decisions to temporarily close BASE will be communicated to parents/ carers at the earliest opportunity. This decision will not be taken lightly.

Our risk assessment has once again been reviewed and the update will be available on our website from Monday for any parents/ carers who wish to find out more about our protective measures. If you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us. At the time of writing this letter, the government are reviewing various COVID-19 related practices, so further changes and updates are highly likely.

As always, thank you for your support with our back to school transition. I know you will do everything you can to keep our community safe and school open. Don't forget to wear face masks at drop off and collection and please adhere to social distancing guidance.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Laura Rynn

Headteacher

