



Bishop Douglass Catholic School

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy new year to you and your families. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday.

As you know our new term began today, not in the way we would have liked but with the planned testing schedule. The measures we have put in place will hopefully ensure that we continue to operate and provide an education for your children over this next term. Thank you for your support with this.

We are making every effort to ensure that face to face teaching is continued throughout this year. Therefore, we will continue with:

- Mask wearing for all staff and pupils in the school buildings from, unless they are exempt. Your child will be required to provide their own mask. **Masks will be on sale at Student Services priced at 10p for a disposable surgical mask and 20p for a re-usable mask.**
- Insisting that pupils wear the mask properly, covering the nose and mouth to help protect the wearer and others from the spread of infection. Masks may be pulled down by the straps so that children can respond in class to teacher questions. Children must wear masks on public transport.
- Encouraging students to wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitiser around the school
- Ensuring there is sufficient ventilation in classrooms and buildings. At this time of year, it is important that your child wears sufficient warm clothing.
- We have supplied your child with a box of lateral flow tests (LFT). Your child will be required to carry out a LFT twice a week at home, Sunday and Wednesday.
- The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place. You will be contacted directly and told to isolate for 7 days.
- If your child tests positive on the Lateral flow test, then they must stay at home and organise a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test.
- If your child is at home isolating following a PCR result, then they can access the curriculum through the TEAMS platform, where they will be able to access lessons streamed via Teams.

Please refer to your child's Journal regarding our school uniform rules as a reminder so that we can ensure our whole community are clear regarding our expectations in this respect.

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Uniform here is very good and it is imperative that this continues and that the new term and this calendar year get off to the best possible start. In order for this to happen, it is crucial that you support your child to ensure that they are in school on time, meeting the uniform regulations and maintain a positive attitude to learning. All of the staff here at school continue to do everything possible to support your child's learning. We do not want to get side-tracked from our main focus, by having to deal with avoidable issues such as uniform infringements or students not adhering to our very clear rules. Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation in maintaining our high standards.

It is imperative that students attend every day, as expected, so that their progress is not interrupted. Staff at school know that every lesson counts and we do our best to convey this message to both students and parents. Please support us in our endeavours by making routine medical appointments either after school or in the holidays. You already know that holidays should not be booked during term time, as they cannot be authorised and could lead to fixed penalty notices being issued. Again, I look forward to you as parents and carers to support us in our efforts to ensure our high attendance and punctuality levels here at Bishop Douglass continue, as this is essential to each child reaching their full potential and becoming the best they can be.

Please do look at our parent newsletter, website and Twitter regularly for updates, information and key reminders. We very much value your feedback. Let us know if you have any queries or concerns, so we have the opportunity to resolve these quickly. As we start this new term, I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support. Wishing you all the best for a happy, holy and healthy New Year, working in partnership with all here at Bishop Douglass.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Henderson
Head of School

