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Sunday 3rd January 2021

Welcome back after Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers,

First and foremost, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that, despite restrictions, you and your families managed to have a lovely Christmas.

There has been significant speculation over the weekend about whether schools will return as planned next week following the actions of the teaching unions but the Prime Minister has this morning made it very clear that there are no plans for further school closures beyond those already announced in London. Tomorrow is an INSET day for staff, and in light of this and the fact that Warrington has been moved to Tier 4, I have changed our plans to build in time to review our current risk assessment, procedures and measures in place so that we can make sure that everything is in place to continue to keep children safe in school despite rising cases both locally and nationally.

If any changes are made tomorrow, I will write again to keep you informed of anything that you need to know ready for the children's return on Tuesday.

We rely on your support and cooperation to follow the rules and guidance set out by the Government and to follow the measures being put in place at school to keep everyone safe. Below is a reminder of key measures already in place which we are asking you to follow – now more than ever we ask that you take these measures seriously and set a good example to the children:

- Children must not come into the school if they have:
 - a high temperature;
 - a new, continuous dry cough;
 - a loss of smell or taste;
 - tested positive in the last 10 days
 - been told to self-isolate due to direct contact with someone who has tested positive
- Children must not come into school if a member of their household shows symptoms as outlined above or is awaiting a test result.
- Please continue to remind children about the importance of **hand hygiene**, **respiratory hygiene** (catch it – bin it – kill it) and **social distancing**.
- **Face coverings** must be worn when dropping off and picking up the children.
- Only **one adult** should attend school at drop off and pick up time.
- Do **not arrive at school before 8.30am** and do not arrive early at the end of day.



- **Maintain 2 metres** between yourself and those not in your household, support bubble or childcare bubble on your way to and from school and on the playground.
- Once children have been picked up, **do not allow them to play on school equipment** as there is no guarantee that this has yet been cleaned after use during the day.
- **Do not stay on the playground** once you have dropped off / picked up your children, and **do not gather outside of school** before or after drop off / pick up times.
- Communication with staff should be via telephone, email or your child's school diary, **not face-to-face**.
- Only **essential items** should be brought into school:
 - Lunchbox (cleaned daily at home)
 - Water bottle (cleaned daily and filled at home)
 - Reading book and school diary
- **NO OTHER ITEMS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL** – if your child wishes to share something with their teacher, please do this by sending a photograph to the office or directly to class teachers on Microsoft Teams.

We understand that these measures are not ideal, however the safety of children and staff must be our primary concern as we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday.

Finally, a reminder that if your child will be unable to return to school as planned on Tuesday due to self-isolation, please notify the school office via email on: office@stvincentsprimary.org so that staff can make arrangements for remote learning.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued support in keeping everyone safe and well,

Dominic Vernon
Head Teacher