



Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Issue: 22

Friday 19 March 2021

Oxhill Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8HH • Tel: 0121 554 1825 • www.sjw.bham.sch.uk • enquiry@sjw.bham.sch.uk



Weekly Information Bulletin



Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'

Catholic Life

Termly theme: Hope



Our Father, Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen

Safety Notice

We continue to work with the police supporting their initiatives to ensure that pupils are aware of any dangers and risk to their life and others. Therefore, we shall be spot checking pupils as well as searching whole year groups as appropriate over the next few weeks in line with our behaviour policy.

By Mrs Crooks

Important Dates

- **Easter Holiday**
Thursday 1 April 2021 (School closes at 2.00pm)
- **School opens to all pupils**
Tuesday 20 April 2021

Overdue Library Books

Would parents remind your children to return any overdue Library books they may have at home. There is a significant number of books that are overdue and this in return denies other pupils the opportunity to enjoy reading these books. Thank you for your cooperation.

By Mr Mull

Home Testing from 22 March onwards

Your child has received some home testing kits for you to use twice a week at home from Monday 22 March. Instructions for carrying out the tests are included in the packs. The school is keeping a small testing area in operation so if you prefer your child to have a test at school this is possible. If a pupil wants to have a test at school they should attend school at 8.00am and use the reception entrance.

By Miss Marston

Change of Address

If you have recently changed your address, please can you send in the proof of your new address, i.e., utility bill. It is important that you inform us straight away so that we send your letters to the correct address.

By Mrs Nayyar

Mobile Network Offers for Students

MOBILE NETWORK	WHAT IS THE OFFER?	WHO CAN APPLY?
	O2 are offering 40GB of data per month for students until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✓
	EE are offering 60,000 students 20GB of additional data per month until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✓
	Three are offering students unlimited data until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✓
	Sky Mobile are offering 1,800 students 100GB of additional data per month	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✗
	Tesco Mobile are offering 1,000 students 20GB of additional data per month until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✗
	Smarty are offering students unlimited data until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✓
	Vodafone are offering students 350,000 SIM cards that provide 30GB of data	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✓
	Virgin Mobile are offering students 20GB of additional data per month until 31 July 2021	Pay Monthly customers ✓ Pay-as-you-go customers ✗
	Giffgaff are not currently offering any additional support to students	✗
	Lycamobile are not currently offering any additional support to students	✗
	Asda mobile are not currently offering any additional support to students	✗
	Lebara mobile are not currently offering any additional support to students.	✗
	PlusNet are not currently offering additional data to students but they are zero rating BBC bitesize for all customers	✗

How to receive this support

If you are a parent or a pupil and want to access this support, please contact your school.
All schools wanting help for their pupils should visit: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/start>



SAINT JOHN WALL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Headteacher

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March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

[The Government has recently announced that](#) from 22 March 2021, all secondary aged pupils will be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 tests to take at home.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week.

Testing pupils at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning **or** the evening will support families to test at home.

Test kits will be issued regularly by school and are free of charge. Pupils will receive a pack of 3 in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Parents will also need to tell the school about a positive result.

If a pupil has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one.

Taking part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. I am strongly encouraging all pupils to take part in the national testing programme. School will keep an on-site testing facility open if you prefer your child to be tested at school. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

K Marston

Miss K Marston
Headteacher

Some frequently asked questions

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are two main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When pupils take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the pupil.

They will need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- child's name
- child's test result
- the reference number on the test kit

They will also need to tell the school or college their test result.

Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC. DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

Information on how personal data is used for testing is in the Privacy Notice which you received with the consent form.

What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they are having a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.

[Help and support is available](#) for pupils, parents and carers, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

How will my GCSEs be awarded in 2021?

Results will be awarded on completed and future work.

So, keep doing your best!!!

Work out your grade ↓	Evidence ↓	Results and appeals ↓
 Graded by your teacher	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 Results day GCSE 12 August 2021
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Non-exam assessment will continue	
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Art and design grade based only on your portfolio	
	 Teachers can use questions provided by exam boards if they want to	