



# BILLINGE CHAPEL END

## — SCHOOL & NURSERY —

Carr Mill Road, Billinge, Wigan, WN5 7TX  
Email: chapelend@sthelens.org.uk  
Headteacher: Mr C. Hewitt

Tel: 01744 678230  
Fax: 01744 678232  
Date: 6.10.21

### Change of day to day procedures

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have had a rise in positive COVID 19 test results in recent weeks. In addition to this, we have a number of children who are self-isolating at home, who are showing symptoms of the virus. Our analysis is indicating that the sharpest rise in numbers links to our EYFS department in school.

In response to this, I have met today with St Helens Local Authority Test and Trace team and Public Health England. Following this meeting, a number of control measures will be introduced in school effective from Thursday 7th October - Friday 22nd October inclusive.

#### Isolation

Any child who shows symptoms of COVID 19:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

will self isolate at home for 10 days or until a negative PCR test is confirmed.

If you have more than one child in school and one child tests positive for COVID 19, we would ask that all siblings receive a negative PCR before returning to school.

#### Testing

St Helens Test and Trace along with Public Health England have requested that all children in school and nursery receive a PCR test. This is the best way that we can limit the spread of COVID 19.

If you choose not to test your child and they display any of the symptoms listed above, you will be asked to isolate your child at home for 10 days.

The closest site to obtain a PCR test to school is Birchley Street Car Park in St Helens. Alternatively, Chapel Lane testing centre is available in Wigan. To book a test please visit: [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

We would ask families in all year groups to continue use lateral flow tests on their children twice a week as a precautionary measure. Testing kits are available in the school foyer and at health care providers such as Lloyds Pharmacy (Other pharmacies are available).





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#### Face coverings

From Thursday 7th October we would ask all parents and carers to wear face coverings whilst visiting the school site. We would encourage phone calls to the school office and Dojo messages to teaching staff as lines of communication.

#### Dropping off and picking up

We are continuing to open our classroom doors at 8:45am as we have been doing all year. This allows for a 15 minute drop off period before registers close.

At the end of the school day, EYFS doors open at 3pm and all other children can be collected between 3pm and 3:15pm. This is a slight change to recent procedures, but now allows for a 15 minute collection period across the school which will minimise congestion.

#### School assemblies and visits off school site

Until the half term, assemblies will be conducted through 'Microsoft TEAMS' and all visits off school site including sporting tournaments are cancelled.

#### Free School Meals

Children eligible for free school meals who are attending school will continue to receive them. Chapel End Primary will work in conjunction with St Helens Local Authority to provide children who are eligible for Free School Meals, but who are not attending school, to provide food packs.

#### Wrap around Care and clubs

Due to staffing issues caused by this situation, we are unfortunately unable to offer breakfast and after school club places to children in our EYFS. Staff who are based in our wrap around care provision who are based in EYFS have also been removed from the club setting. Wrap around care will remain open to children in year groups 1 to 6 as normal. Breakfast club 7:30am – 9am and after school club 3:15pm - 5:30pm.

After school club Multisports and paid music provision in school will continue as normal.

#### Blended Learning

If a child tests positive for COVID 19 or displays symptoms and is required to isolate, they will be provided with online tasks in line with the school's blended learning policy. In cases where the child is asymptomatic, online learning should be completed to the highest standard possible. It is at the discretion of the parent how much home learning is accessed based upon the severity of illness and home-work-life balance. We would encourage any parent or carer who is staying home with a child who has tested positive or displayed symptoms to contact the class teacher to agree upon the best provision for the family.





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#### Bubbles

EYFS will be placed into an independent 'bubble' and distanced from the rest of the school. Children and staff in our EYFS will not come into contact with children or staff from other year groups. Our EYFS children will enjoy their lunches in the classroom and will receive their own dedicated Teachers, Learning Assistants and Cleaners. They will receive awards such as pupil of the week and wonderwall certificates in class from their teacher.

#### Cleaning

In addition to enhanced cleaning procedures, the EYFS department received deep cleans on Monday 27th September and Friday 1st October. We have received a 'fogging' machine from St Helens' Council, and the unit will receive cleaning procedures using antiviral agents using the device on Friday 8th October after the children have gone home.

#### Ventilation

We will continue to keep our learning spaces well ventilated and provide as much outdoor based learning as possible. With the weather turning colder, parents and carers do have the option of sending their child into school with an underlayer or 'skin' which can be worn underneath the school uniform or PE kit.

#### Headteacher's Message

As a school we understand the disruption that these new safety measures may cause to families within our school community. I would like to thank you all in advance for your understanding as we put these systems into place. Our key objective here is to keep every member of our Chapel End community safe, whilst at the same time providing the best educational offer possible to each family. As a dad myself, I understand that it is frustrating if your little boy or girl develops a cold which brings on a temperature and you are asked to take time out of work to isolate with them. The quickest way to limit the spread of COVID 19 is through a PCR test. If you choose not to give your child a PCR test, I must follow Government, Public Health England and Local Authority regulations and ask you to keep your child at home for 10 days. This guidance is placed before Headteachers in order to control the spread of COVID 19, and we must follow them as part of our whole school risk assessments. I sincerely hope that these new measures will have as little impact on our families' home and working lives as possible. I will be meeting weekly with Local Authority Test and Trace teams and Public Health England to review and update this situation and will inform parents of any changes as they happen.

Thank you again for your understanding  
Yours sincerely

Mr Hewitt  
Headteacher

