



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST

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Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to start by thanking you for your continued support this term in what has been a challenging time for so many. We enjoyed welcoming all of our children back to school in September and they have been a pleasure to work with this term, showing great resilience and quickly adapting to new school routines and procedures.

As you will be aware, Barnsley has been placed in Tier 3 following the National lockdown. This means that there should be no mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles, and that a maximum of 6 people can meet in some outdoor spaces such as parks and public gardens maintaining a safe social distance. We continue to ask you to remember to follow all of the government guidance, including wearing masks when on school grounds, maintaining a social distance from people outside of your own household or support bubble and regularly washing hands.

As Christmas approaches, which is always such an exciting time in schools, we would like to urge you to follow all of the above guidance and stay as safe as possible. If we have confirmation of a positive Covid test in one of our classes (or 'bubbles'), all of the pupils, teachers and support staff who have come into contact with the positive case would legally be required to self-isolate for 14 days, meaning that they would not be allowed outside of their family home and that no-one would be allowed in. This would clearly have a devastating impact upon Christmas plans for our children, their families and any of our staff impacted, and we would not like to see this happen to anyone within our community. I wish I could offer you reassurances that there will be no bubble closures in that final week, but of course as events of the past few weeks have proved, it is impossible to do so.

We are therefore asking you to be extra cautious at this time in the hope that we can all enjoy and celebrate Christmas this year, if in a quieter than normal way.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Kind regards

Melanie Priestley
Chief Executive Officer

