

Tameside Metropolitan Borough
St Anne's Primary School



Headteacher Mrs K Rimmer BEd (Hons)
St Anne's Road, Denton, Manchester M34 3DY
Telephone No: 0161 336 2956 Fax No: 0161 320 7949
Email: admin@st-annes-denton.tameside.sch.uk
www.st-annes-denton.tameside.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

As you will all be aware, this week has seen the return to the national tiered system of restrictions. Although Greater Manchester is in the Tier 3 level, educational establishments remain open. This is good news for the children who are dealing remarkably well with the challenges we all face on a daily basis.

Staffing

Obviously school is not immune from the impact of Covid-19 and indeed, the fact that educational establishments remain open during the current Tier 3 measures, makes it more likely that there will be staff absences. Like all other members of society, there is a legal duty on staff to self-isolate when it is necessary for them to do so. We have been extremely fortunate so far in that we have not had to use supply agencies at all during the pandemic.

Attendance

As the evidence base on COVID-19 has grown, we now know that very few children are at highest risk of severe illness due to the virus. This is even the case for children with existing health conditions. As a result, most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. Fortunately, our attendance levels have remained high and I thank parents/carers for their support in achieving this and recognising the value of regular school attendance. However, where a child fails to attend on a regular basis, school is expected to follow its normal procedures and will chase any absence in the usual way.

Self-Isolation

As we look to the Christmas holidays my hope is that we will all be able to spend quality time with our family, despite the difficulties associated with the current pandemic and restrictions. Please continue to follow the guidelines for Greater Manchester so that our school community remains as Covid-secure as possible. This will give everyone the best chance of enjoying the 5 days of eased restrictions.

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Accredited Professional
Development Lead

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The self-isolation guidance remains the same. Your child must self-isolate immediately if:

- They have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- They have tested positive for coronavirus
- They live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- Someone in their support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- They are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace (including by a school or setting who has been advised by contact tracers) or the NHS COVID-19 app

It is incredibly important that the self-isolation guidance is adhered to (see the following link):
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-forhouseholds-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Rimmer
HEADTEACHER



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