

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



2 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Plan for St Matthew Academy "Living with COVID-19"

I would like to take this opportunity to outline how the recent announcement from Prime Minister, Boris Johnson on Monday 21 February and subsequent guidance from the Department of Education on Thursday 24 February will affect our community. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we must learn to live with whilst ensuring we reduce the disruption to our children and young people's education.

Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts

As of Thursday 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. If your child is absent due to COVID or any reason please ensure you either email attendance@stmatthewacademy.co.uk or call on 02088536250, choosing option 1 and leave a clear message.

Changes to testing in education and childcare settings and children's social care services

On Monday 21 February, the Government removed the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing and therefore we can no longer distribute lateral flow testing kits. These however, can be obtained from your local pharmacy by [ordering online](#).

Vaccination Programme

Following their initial visit to the Academy, our NHS Vaccination Team will return to deliver first and second doses at St Matthew Academy on **Tuesday 15th March**. If your child has not yet received their first dose of the vaccine or require their second booster, they are welcome to do so in school during this visit. Please click on this link to access the eConsent: <http://qlink.uk/li29/135264>. Please be aware the nurses WILL NOT be administering the vaccine to any pupils whose parents have not given consent.

The wearing of a face covering will continue to be optional at school but if pupils do choose to wear them they must be worn correctly covering their nose and mouth. We will also continue to ventilate the building to prevent the spread of the virus.

We will continue to keep you updated with any changes that may affect our pupils or their families but I would like to thank you for your continued support during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Yours faithfully

Ms M Baldwin

Headteacher