

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Governors

I would like to share with you how proud I am of all our students but in particular Year 9 this week. On the 11th of 11th at 11am we came together as we always do to join with the rest of the country in marking the Armistice. This happened during Year 9's morning break. It was one of the most moving experiences I have encountered. As the first bell rang to note the start of our remembrance the whole of Year 9 stopped in the playground, on the courts, on the AstroTurf and in the dining hall, as Charlie C Year 13 started to play The Last Post and Reveille they stood silently and respectfully. The whole of St Gregory's was silent except for the beautiful sound of Charlie's moving performance. I was honoured to be part of this and it truly reminded me how special the Family of St Gregory's is.

Please take time to look through this newsletter and digest all the information it contains especially the letter that Mr Robinson shared from Granny Nancy.

Thank you all on behalf of all the staff here at St Gregory's for your support and let us all continue to work together for the benefit of our St Gregory's children and community.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes, A Cusack, Headmistress

Guidance on use of face covering when travelling to school or college

Children aged 11 and over are legally required to [wear a face covering on public transport in England](#), unless exempt for health, age or disability reasons.

In accordance with advice from Public Health England, we recommend that local authorities advise children and young people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt. Coronavirus (COVID-19) usually spreads by droplets from coughs, sneezes and speaking. When used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) droplets in certain circumstances, helping to protect others.

Schools should support local authorities in promoting the use of face coverings when travelling to and from school, and help them to resolve any issues of non-compliance where appropriate.

The ['Hands, Face, Space' campaign](#) urges everyone to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates. The NHS has released a ['Hands, Face, Space' video](#) that may be a useful resource when communicating the importance of wearing a face covering on transport directly to children and young people.

Further information on face coverings can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education: autumn term 2020](#).

Dates for Your Diary

Fri 27 Nov	Inset Day—school closed to students
Fri 18 Dec	End of Term 2—1.30pm finish for students

Next Week: Week A



COVID-19 Related Illness

As we see more cases locally of COVID-19, it is vital that you notify the school **immediately** of any illness or absence from school related to COVID. This also includes if you have been asked to self-isolate or are awaiting test results for a member of your household.

During school time: please contact the absence line on 01225 838230.

Out of hours: covid@st-gregorys.org.uk

Remote Learning Due to Isolation

In the case where learning may be disrupted for a group or bubble of students, students will access work online via Google Classroom according to their normal timetabled lessons. Google guides and support on accessing remote learning can be found on our website at <https://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/covid-19/>. In case of any difficulties, tutors and subject teachers will also be on hand to provide support or assistance if needed. If you require any assistance with logins or passwords, please contact the IT Support via email ITSupport@st-gregorys.org.uk

TERM 2 CHANGES UNTIL CHRISTMAS

Student release times:

- Year 7, Year 8, & Year 9 - 14:45
- Year 10 & Year 11 - 15:05
- Year 12 & Year 13 - 15:10



Masks - In line with current guidance, students are required to wear masks into school, whilst moving around the site and when leaving the school site at the end of the day.

Where possible please ensure your child brings their own reusable mask to avoid waste.



AFTER SCHOOL MEP CLUB

Due to the staff training, the Y8 MEP afterschool session will be cancelled on Wednesday 25 November. The next session will be running on Wednesday 2 December.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hook by email hooks@st-gregorys.org.uk.

Mrs Hook, Teacher of Mandarin

Car Parking/Student Drop Off

Please do not drop off on the main site or at Odd Down Football Club. We are also aware that cars are stopping on double yellow lines around the entrance to Combe Hay Lane and on Sulis Manor Road at the beginning and end of the school day which is creating a hazard and putting students and other road users in danger.

Students can be dropped off at Odd Down Park and Ride or in neighbouring roads where it is safe and legal to do so. Thank you for your co-operation.



HEAD LICE

We are aware there have been a few cases of head lice. It is important that you please:

- Look at your child's hair this evening.
- Treat if necessary straight away.
- It is VITAL that you treat the whole family to prevent re-infection.
- Check your family's hair on a daily basis.
- It is advisable to have long hair tied back as this will help prevent the spread of head lice.

Mrs Stevenson, Medical Response Officer

Nut Allergies



Please be aware that we have students and staff with serious nut allergies. We would therefore ask that you do not include nuts in packed lunches and snacks, eg chocolate and cereal bars.



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

We are recruiting for a talented and enthusiastic colleague to join our supportive and friendly team.

School Meals Supervisory Assistant (SMSA)

Required for immediate start to supervise students during the lunchtime period and help to ensure the smooth running of our busy catering facilities.

Mon - Fri 12.30pm - 2.40pm
(temp hours due to COVID)

Mon - Fri 1.20pm - 2.40pm (normal hours)

Salary: £9.36 per hour

Visit www.st-gregorys.org.uk to apply

Saint Gregory's is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of our students and expect all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced disclosure from the DBS is required for all successful applicants.



On 20 November **Zara and Cordelia** (both in 8G) are taking part in 'Sleep Out' to raise money for youth homelessness.

Homelessness devastates young lives. Last year over 110,000 young people aged between 16-25 years in the UK were homeless or at risk of homelessness. Some facing serious danger on the streets. Without the right help at the right time, this downward spiral lasts through adulthood. It is estimated that 50% of homeless adults become homeless before the age of 21. But there's still hope. With the right opportunities and support, homeless young people can turn their lives around and build successful futures, which is why your sponsorship is vital and will make all the difference this Christmas!

If you would like to donate please use this link:
<https://eyh-sleepout.blackbaud-sites.com/fundraising/SleepOut2020-CordeliaThomas>

So far they have raised £110 and their target is £150.

THE LANGUAGES CORNER

French:

Bien que + verb
(subjunctive)

Although I recycle every week, I don't think it is enough to save the planet.

Bien que je recycle toutes les semaines, je ne pense pas que ce soit assez pour sauver la planète.

Mandarin:

岁岁平安 (suì suì píng'ān)
May you have peace all year round!

German:

Useful reflexive verbs

sich interessieren für = to be interested in.

Ich interessiere mich für = I am interested in.

e.g. Ich interessiere mich für Sport. = I am interested in Sport.

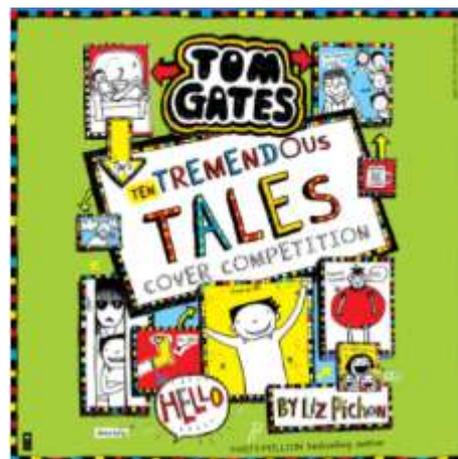
Ich habe mich für Tennis interessiert.

I was interested in tennis.

Spanish:

está lloviendo a cántaros – it's raining cats and dogs/ bucketing down – Its raining heavily.

SCHOLASTIC



Your doodled cover could be printed in the next Tom Gates book!

All winners will win a signed book, signed print, limited edition badge and a bag of goodies. The overall winner will also receive a Skype visit from Liz Pichon to their school!

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Tom Gates Scholastic Books are asking fans to draw their own Tom Gates cover!

Author & illustrator Liz Pichon will pick her favourites to appear in the endpapers of *Tom Gates: Ten Tremendous Tales*.

Doodled entries need to:

- Have the words TOM GATES on them
- Include characters from the books (Tom, Delia, Marcus, etc).
 - Be black & white!
- Be postcard size! (Portrait or landscape is fine)
- Tweeted to #TomGates10 on Twitter or emailed to publicity@scholastic.co.uk

Deadline is 23 November

Tweet at: [@ScholasticUK](https://twitter.com/ScholasticUK) | #TomGates10 | #TomGates

Full T&Cs available here: <https://www.scholastic.co.uk/competition-terms>



Please remember aerosol sprays are strictly forbidden in school.

Meat Free Friday

Please be mindful that, in line with Catholic tradition, the school caterers do not serve meat on Fridays.

Chaplaincy Thoughts for the Week



Nancy Stewart is Ireland's oldest citizen at the grand old age of 107! She recently wrote a letter of encouragement in these difficult and anxious times of lockdown for her parish priest to share. He posted it on social media so that people could hear her advice for all of us facing challenging situations. It is well worth a read so I have shared it here for you:

To Anyone Who Needs a Reason to Keep Going:

My name is Nancy Stewart and I was born on the 16th of October 1913. This weekend I turn 107 years of age. Imagine turning 107 in a world pandemic. This definitely is something very unusual even for me and all I have been through. I live in Clonard in County Meath and have lived in my home for over 83 years.

I lost my husband in a car crash in 1989, and lost my twin daughters, Margaret in 2007 to motor neurone [ALS] and Anne in 2010 to utter heartbreak of losing her sister. I've lost all my friends throughout the years, which comes with living so long on this earth. I'm very lucky to still have three daughters Kathleen, Mary, and Olive, and one son, Finian, and I have 84 grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

I have faced many heart-breaking moments and also have seen many hard times in our country witnessing world wars, division in our people and numerous sad times for our nation.

I write to you today to send you my love and to offer you my prayers. We are in a very difficult time at the moment in our country, in our lives and in our world. But I reach out to you in this letter to offer you hope, faith and belief that everything will be OK in the end.

We are in another stage of this battle against the virus but we will get through this. Like everything I've been through since the day I was born in 1913, no matter how bad things have got, I'm the living proof that we can survive and in years to come, this will just be a distant memory.

I have a great faith and it has helped me keep positive throughout the struggles I've met. I thank you for keeping your faith and for keeping your resilience strong, through this hard time. Sadly for the moment, we can no longer stretch out to a friend and embrace them nor can we call to each other's houses. But I'm

here to share my story. I have been in lockdown in my house since March, alongside my granddaughter Louise and even though it has been a tough time, we have got through it together. We drink tea. We say prayers. We bake. We laugh. We make phone calls. I can even video call lots of my family and friends and am making new friends everyday that God gives me on this earth.

And that's a very important thing to say. If you are feeling low, make sure to try call someone or even go for a walk. I also ask God to help me if I'm feeling low. This is a hard time for everyone but please make sure you keep yourself well and wear your mask. If you keep healthy, your mind will stay healthy too. Keep talking to one another. All my life I have always believed in chatting and drinking tea and saying a prayer or a decade of the rosary and it has got me through. This is our moment to keep our faith and to keep believing that everything will turn out ok.

We must try to make sure we leave nobody behind and also that we don't lose sight of each other. This is a moment for humanity to step forward to take care of the other. We must mind ourselves but we must also mind all those around us. Look up and smile even if you have your mask on. Your eyes will smile and that might be all someone needs to keep going. No good deed ever goes unnoticed so try your best to keep being good. We are not here to live for ourselves but to live for each other.

I can't believe I've made it to this age, I only feel like I'm 50, but now that I'm here, all I can say is please God I'll be here for my next birthday. We must always look forward. I can't believe I'm the oldest person in Ireland living in my own home, I don't feel that old. When God wants me, he will come take me but for now I will keep enjoying my life, I'll keep loving my family and I'll keep saying my prayers day by day ... oh and not to forget eating lots of good wholesome food is my tip. Good food and lots of tea is my secret to a long life as well as keeping positive as best we can. We must always look forward and hope for the best.

Thank you for thinking of me in your prayers and your thoughts and I promise I will think of you in my many rosaries I say every day. Thank you so much for reading my letter also and I hope I have, in even a little way, helped you feel less alone in this moment. There is always hope and once we keep talking to one another, no day will seem empty and we can get through this together. It only takes a small candle to take away the dark and in each of us, we can be that light in the world. This hard time will indeed pass like all the rest and all that matters is that we helped each other through.

Many blessings and much love,
Granny Nancy x
Clonard
Co Meath.

Mr Robinson, Lay Chaplain

CHILDREN OF GOD: LGBTQIA+ Ministry and Experiences in the Catholic Church

Thursday 19 November 7.00—8.30pm

Following our very successful PSHE focus on Equalities this week some of you may be interested in the above event. It is hosted by MillionMinutes, a Catholic Youth organisation that encourages Catholic Youth to use their voice to action for change in the world. You are invited to attend this free online event. To register and for more information please visit www.MillionMinutes.org/events or speak to Ms Spindler or Mr Robinson.

The poster features a dark blue background with white and light blue text. At the top, the title 'Children of God: LGBTQIA+ youth ministry and experiences in the Catholic Church' is written in a large, bold, light blue font. Below the title, the date and time 'Thursday 19th November at 7pm - 8.30' and the phrase 'With guest speakers:' are in white. Five names are listed in light blue: Dan Hale, Maria Yoo, George White, Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, and Daisy Srblin (chair). Below the names are five corresponding headshots of the speakers, each with a white outline. At the bottom, a light blue banner with white text reads 'IT'S TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE'.

MillionMinutes' press release:

Following on from the success of our online conversations over lockdown, we are returning this Autumn / Winter with some themed conversations. **Our first panel look at LGBTQIA+ youth ministry and experiences in the Catholic Church.** Join us as we hear from a panel of special guests with a chaired Q&A afterwards. **This event is open to everyone, especially young people and those working with young people,** and will take the form of a webinar, which means attendees will not be able to see who else is in the webinar, and questions can be submitted anonymously.

Ms Spindler, Head of RE

Mask Exemption

If a student is exempt from wearing a mask please could parents/carers email Mrs Stevenson, Medical Response Officer, on stevensonk@st-gregorys.org.uk. Exempt students will be issued with a lanyard.



Contact Details

If you have recently changed any of your contact details (telephone numbers, email addresses) please inform obrayc@st-gregorys.co.uk



a slice of



Dear Students, here is this week's instalment of a Slice of Science. It includes an article about the recent promising COVID vaccine and a practical on how to grow your own crystals. Enjoy. The Science Team



Article of the week

<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/new-pfizer-vaccine-appears-90-percent-effective-against-covid-19>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Salt-Crystals>



Practical of the week.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Salt-Crystals>



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Students and educators at eligible institutions can sign up for Office 365 Education for free, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and now Microsoft Teams, plus additional classroom tools. Use your valid school email address to get started today. Office 365 works like you: everywhere ...

www.microsoft.com

Please use this link to find out more information: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/education/products/office>



Letter from the PTFA

Hello Everyone

Firstly, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the most recent PTFA fundraiser and sent in photos and recipes for the Saint Greg's Cook Book – we've had some amazing entries but would love more before the deadline if you are able. We particularly love the entries of students' recipes and their photos of them cooking up their masterpieces, so more of this please!

Fundraising for the school has been quite tricky over the past few months. We are mindful that everyone has their own personal struggles and have no wish to add more pressure or complexity to everyone's lives. We are hopeful though that there is a future for the PTFA after all of this so have been trying to keep things afloat and working on plans for the future.

Thanks to Sarah who has persevered in setting up the school uniform shop through the pandemic. This has not been easy and she is almost there but we have unfortunately reached another hurdle to overcome – hence the reason for this email!

There are only a couple of us who 'run' the PTFA, although of course we know that we have the support of many more of you through events, etc. Unfortunately, through personal and work pressures, keeping things afloat is getting harder and harder and we are desperately in need of more volunteers who would be willing to take on areas of responsibility for the PTFA.

We do not currently have a committee as 2020 has not allowed the normal meetings and, as such, no official roles to manage the administration or financial aspects of the PTFA. PTFA funds have always been managed by the school in the past which has allowed us to concentrate our efforts on supporting events and fundraising however, due to various changes and pressures at school, this is no longer possible and we are therefore seeking parent/carer volunteers who can set up a small committee and take over this function. We ideally need the following, who could also act as Trustees:

- A Chair (or two) – to coordinate the operation and efforts of the PTFA, including setting up a new constitution representative of current activity.
- A Treasurer (or two) – to coordinate the PTFA finances, manage the bank account and transfer of signatories and keep up to date financial records for audit and Charity Commission annual return. This role is urgent as we do not have access to the PTFA bank accounts which is causing the delay to the uniform shop (amongst much longer term issues).
- A Secretary (or two) – To coordinate and minute meetings, maintain association records, update trustee details, manage correspondence. This role could be combined with the Chair as one role or shared with a Co-Chair.

Obviously, the more volunteers we have for these roles, the easier it becomes to share the responsibilities out. We envisage that there will be some work involved in the initial stages to set things up and transfer trustees and bank accounts, etc but that the on-going commitment would be 2-3 hours per month (if that!).

So that we can move this forward, please can you email us by 5pm, Friday 20 November if you have any interest in taking on one of these roles. Hopefully, after this date we will then be in a position to organise a Zoom meeting to get things moving. If no further volunteers come forward, the PTFA will have to be put on hold for the foreseeable future as, between us, we do not have the capacity to continue alone.

Thank you very much

Paula and Lisa

E: ptfa@st-gregorys.org.uk



The PTFA is looking for a volunteer (or two!) to be our treasurer(s) and assist with tasks such as managing direct debits and the PTFA funds including auditing accounts and online banking, managing the 100 Club, and general accounting duties. If you feel you could spare a little time to help us please email ptfa@st-gregorys.org.uk

The PTFA

Reminder: PE Kit

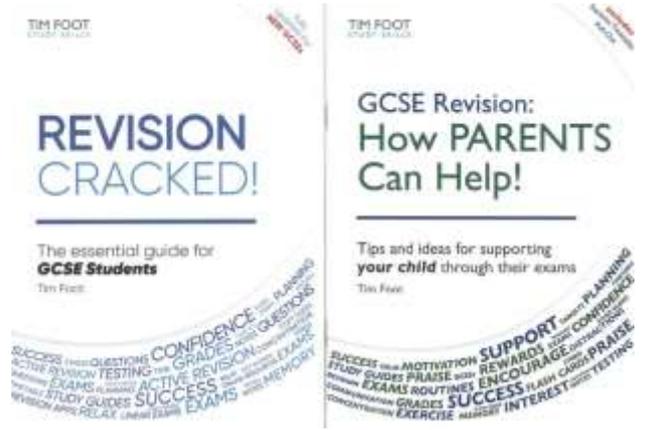


In preparation for the weather starting to turn colder, please remember in PE lessons you must wear St Gregory's PE kit and/or an Enrichment hoodie. You may wear a base layer or layers underneath your PE t-shirt and hoodie. If possible, please wear a waterproof coat.

If your PE kit has still not arrived, you may wear a black hoodie. Please see a member of the PE department if you would like to borrow a St Gregory's hoodie.

Thank you, Mrs McHale, Head of PE

NB: All Year 11 Students have been given a copy of these booklets this week.

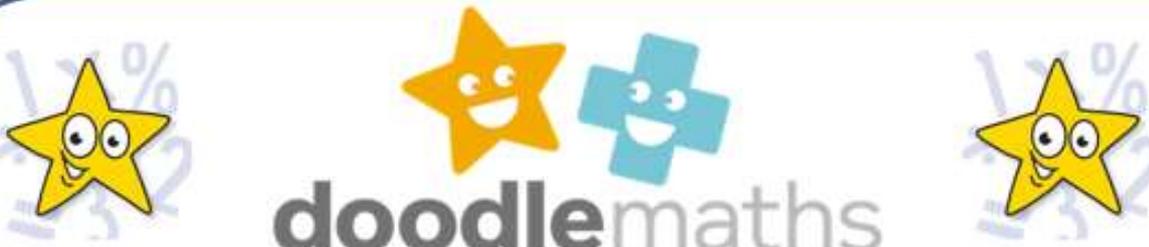


RSE Programme

Thank you to everyone in Years 7-10 who have participated in the Cinema in Education RSE lessons over the past fortnight. Students engaged sensibly with different situations within different relationships and some lively yet reflective discussions were had.

Don't forget parents can view information about these lessons and our full RSE programme via the parent portal

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>
 Username: opp-stgregs-2



Doodle Star Champions of the week:

Year 7: Nico B (169 stars!)

Year 8: Seb W (81 stars)

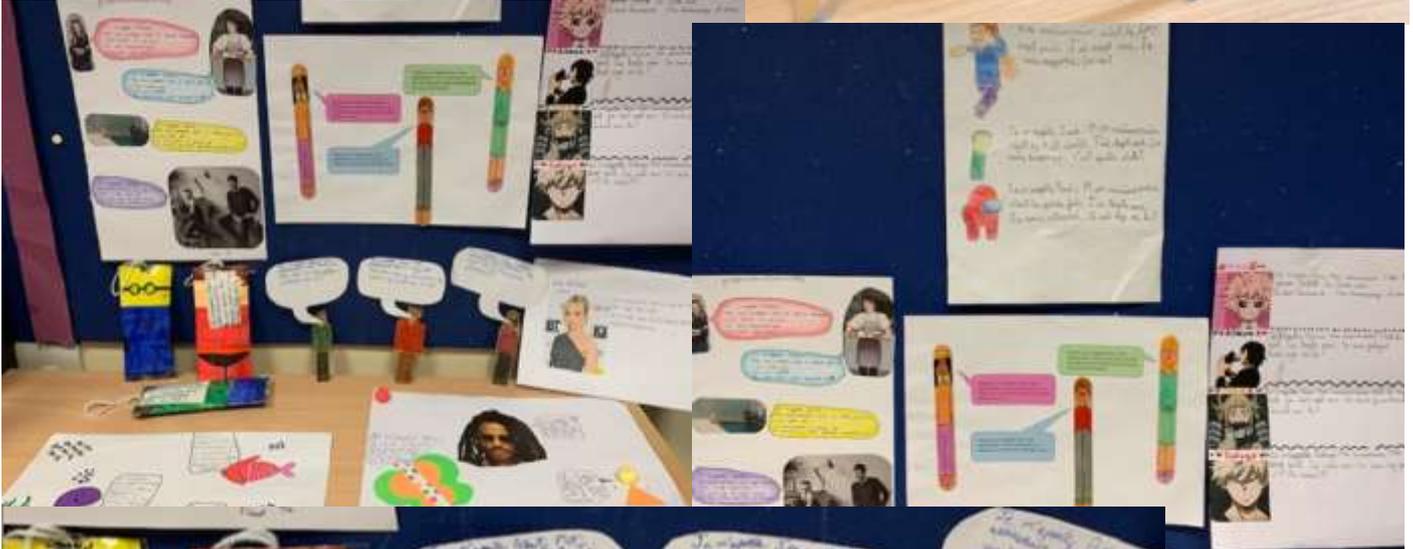
Year 9: Seb C (76 stars)

Congratulations to these students for completing so many doodle stars this week. Well done!

BRAVO!!! Year 7 with their creative approach to presenting little characters.
 Short paragraphs in French all really impressive.
 Felicitations



Well done to Zara, Jonas, Pawel, Lucy, Samuel



Well done to Maciej, Tapiwanashe, Lyla, Fleur, Olivia, Ria, Lilyann, Lola

COVID-19 information

A quick guide for parents and carers



Please follow the advice in this guide. Only contact the school if your child is having a test and to let us know the result. Your school will not be able to advise beyond the information given here. **Please remember to only get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.**

YOU SHOULD BOOK A **TEST** IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

a high temperature or **a new continuous cough** or **a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste**

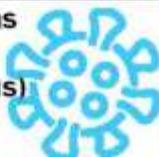
This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough it may be worse than usual)

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child DOES NOT have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they or members of your household do not need to self-isolate.

Your child can attend school if fit to do so.

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
My child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Book a test for your child Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate Inform school immediately about test result 	If test is negative and child is well enough, symptom free for 48 hours and not advised to self-isolate by test and trace service
My child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) Inform school immediately about test results Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) 	When child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone

What to do if...	Action needed	When can my child return to school?
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Household & support bubble member with symptoms to book a test Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate while waiting for test result Inform school immediately about test results 	<p>When household & support bubble member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms and if child has not been advised to self isolate by test and trace services</p>
<p>Somebody in my household & support bubble has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Inform school immediately about test result 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Child to self-isolate for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days Rest of household & support bubble does not need to self-isolate, unless they are also a 'close contact' 	<p>When they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without symptoms. They must self-isolate for 14 days even if they test negative during that time</p>
<p>Your child has been in contact with someone who has been identified as a 'close contact'</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend school as normal If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities 	<p>Attend school as normal</p>
<p>We / my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school Whole household & support bubble to self-isolate for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days <p>Travel reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not take unauthorised leave in term time Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Provide information to school as per attendance policy 	<p>When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not send your child to school. Contact school as advised by attendance officer/pastoral team Child to shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again 	<p>When school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>