



## **Where Pupils Achieve and Excel**

Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head towards the Easter break I would like to update you with how the latest Government guidance impacts schools.

As you know, the Government announcement yesterday demonstrates that we are now very much in the phase of 'living with COVID-19'. As a school we have been very much working towards this since our last update in March. Our priorities for the remainder of the academic year are to continue with 'Catch up' programmes to ensure any missed learning from the last two years is addressed. We will also be working closely with our families to ensure attendance is back to pre-pandemic levels.

We know that the virus hasn't gone away and the last few weeks have been amongst the most challenging of the last two years in terms of staff and pupil absence. I want to reassure you that your child's safety has been at the forefront of our decision making throughout this situation and will continue to be our primary consideration going forwards, along with our duty of care to them, the staff and the wider community.

### **If your child is unwell:**

From 1 April, updated guidance advises that pupils who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days or until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. Pupils can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

The population now has much stronger protection against COVID-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

Testing For education and childcare settings from Friday 1 April:

- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, schools will no longer be able to order test kits;
- the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will publish new guidance. Most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings will be withdrawn from GOV.UK on Friday 1 April.

The operational guidance on the testing in education settings document sharing platform will also be removed on the same day.

**James Bateman Middle School**, Park Lane, Knypersley, Staffordshire, ST8 7AT.

**Telephone:** 01782 973900 **Email:** [office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk)

We are delighted that despite the on-going challenges school feels very much the exciting, vibrant community that we were before March 2020. We have some exciting events coming up during the summer term including Y6 and Y8 residential trips, our school production and our Great Bateman Bash to mention a few.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back into school and will keep you up to date with such opportunities via our newsletters and social media channels.

Please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

You can call the office on 01782 973900 or email [office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@jamesbateman.staffs.sch.uk)

Thank you, as always, for your support and patience.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs T Price  
Headteacher