

**No 1 Multi Academy Trust for disadvantaged pupils' outcomes**

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2019 AND NO 3 IN 2018

**Top 10 National Pupil Progress**

DFE PERFORMANCE TABLES 2018 AND 2019



Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Families

Welcome back to another exciting term here at All Saints' Thurlestone. I hope you have all had a great summer break and have been able to enjoy time with loved ones and doing wonderful things! I'm delighted to welcome back the children today and a special warm welcome goes to our new starters: the Reception children joining us in Yarmer Class and to the new families which have joined us in the other year groups - welcome to our school family!

It was lovely to see so many beaming faces (parents and pupils!) as the children came skipping through the gates this morning - what a gorgeous sight it was. Welcoming pupils back after the summer is always a special time and it is a privilege to see how much they've grown, learn about what they've been busy with over the six weeks and to hear their hopes and aspirations for the new school year.

I'm very much looking forward to this school year and continuing to work with our whole school family to ensure the very best for all, and to set our children on the path to accomplish those hopes and aspirations.

As we look forward then to this year, I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure parents, as we did in our letter at the end of the term in July about the measures, we have in place to prioritise high quality face to face education for children, whilst **minimising risks of any COVID- 19 transmission**.

We will continue to have our System of Controls which include: regular handwashing, good ventilation, enhanced cleaning as well as following **Government rules on testing and isolation which all parents need to be aware of:**

- Children should not come to school with symptoms but book a PCR test via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- If the PCR test is positive, the child must isolate for 10 days and parents will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace who will identify any close contacts and support with next steps. Schools will no longer have responsibility for contact tracing. But please do let us know so we can support with Remote Learning and be extra vigilant for any spread at school.
- Other household members will be advised to take a PCR test but can attend school unless they themselves have symptoms or have a positive PCR test.



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**TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE**



If we do have positive cases in school, under Government rules on self-isolation, we will no longer be sending whole bubbles home. Instead, we will send parents of children in that year group a 'Warn and Inform' letter with information so that they can be extra vigilant too.

**Rates of COVID-19 in the South West are high and the whole of the region has been designated Enhanced Response Area.** This means we should be vigilant and play our part in minimising any risks.

There are things we can all do to reduce the risks and I would encourage our whole community to work together, as we did so brilliantly in the summer, to do this:

*Do*

- Wear face coverings in enclosed and crowded spaces, where you may come in contact with people you don't normally meet. We are asking parents to wear masks when entering the school building and if you need to speak with a member of staff at the beginning or end of the school day. (To maintain normality for the children, we really need to protect our staff as much as possible and ask for your cooperation with this)
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

The Government continues to encourage all over 16 to ensure they are vaccinated to protect themselves and others. People can easily access these by calling their GP, the national booking service <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination>

This website has the most up to date information: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon>

Our school staff continue to work on minimising the risk by LFD testing twice a week, wearing face coverings in any crowded shared areas of the school as well as when on the school gates.

Like all schools, we will have an outbreak management plan which would be put in place, with support from Public Health England, should an outbreak occur and this would see 'tighter' measures. I will continue with my weekly newsletters to families each week but will be in further contact should we need to.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Garside".

Miss L Garside  
Executive Head