

# The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School


Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH




**HEAD TEACHER** Mrs Carmel Dodds **DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Miss Dominique Smith

**PHONE** 01604 714399 **EMAIL** Admin@thegoodshepherd.northants.sch.uk

**WEBSITE** www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk

 @Thegoodshepherdnorthampton

 @TGSNorthampton

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## **Happy New Year!**

### **Moving Forward in 2022 with The Good Shepherd!**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Let me begin by wishing you all a wonderful new year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your beautiful cards and presents. We were overwhelmed by your kindness.

I know many of you have been watching the news with baited breath over these past few days and many of you have been concerned about the possibility of another lockdown.

At this stage there are no additional requirements or further guidance for primary schools. Secondary schools have been advised to wear masks in classes.

As you know we have always approached things cautiously and with our experience we are doing our best to continue to deliver face to face learning despite the challenges.

In order to do this effectively we have decided to continue with the measures we put in place last term.

#### **To minimise mixing of year groups;**

Years 5&6 will continue to work together (3 classes)

Years 3&4 will continue to work together (3 classes)

Years 1&2 will continue to work together (3 classes)

EYFS & Nursery will continue to work together (2 classes)

The groups have separate playtimes and lunchtimes and lunch will continue to be delivered to classrooms as opposed to everyone eating in the main hall.

Staff working with these year groups will also be separate during lunch/breaks. To accommodate this, we have created three staff base areas across the site.

We will endeavour to ensure that staff are limited to these groups however there may be occasions whereby due to staff illness we may need to shuffle staff around to cover.

The main concerns senior leadership teams are sharing have been around staff absences. Ordinarily when a member of staff is ill, we would utilise one of our part time teachers or contact supply teachers. This was increasingly difficult in the run up to Christmas, whereby the supply agencies were struggling to meet the demands of schools and there were no agency staff available to cover. When a situation like this arises, schools have reported that they have been forced into a situation of online learning.

We would like to avoid a situation like this arising we would therefore ask all parents to think carefully before sending children to school with coughs/colds/tummy upsets and to follow government and school guidelines.

If your child has vomited please keep them at home for 48 hours. This will protect anyone including the adults working with children from needing time off school. If your child has Coronavirus symptoms....Please follow the Government guidance which is updated frequently. All our staff have been vaccinated and boosted however we know that they could still get the virus which not only leads them to needing to isolate but could lead to them or others becoming seriously ill.

We would ask that you continue to wear masks on site at drop off and collection times or when you come to school for a meeting. We are trying to limit the amount of visitors on site and many who do come are asked to do a Lateral Flow Test. Staff are continuing to test twice weekly or daily if they are regarded as a close contact of someone who has tested positive and we would ask you to do the same. Staff will continue to wear masks moving around the site.

We would again ask you to continue to isolate if you have tested positive and follow guidelines. If this creates issues for dropping your child off/picking up please contact the school office as we are aware these requirements impose challenges for a lot of families. Again if several members of the household have tested positive and you are all required to isolate please contact the office. We may be able to forward you to organisations which can support with food/supply deliveries.

We would ask that parents drop KS2 children off at the gate or follow the one way system in place and KS1 to follow the usual one way drop off/collection system. Where possible we would ask that only one parent drops off/picks up.

All of that stated has been usual practice throughout the pandemic and in following the guidance, we have managed to keep children in school up until Christmas therefore we would ask for your continued support as we move forward in 2022!

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Dodds

Head Teacher