

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all you have done this term to help us support the education of your sons and daughters. With over 50 years of teaching between us, we have never known a term present so many challenges. Your understanding and support has been greatly appreciated.

As you will know, the infection rates in Gravesend have been amongst the highest in Kent and across the country. Over this term we have had far more positive cases than the national average. We know the partial and full closure of bubbles had been very disruptive, but we have endeavoured to try and keep the whole school community safe. We are immensely proud of all the pupils and the levels of resilience that they have shown in dealing with this ever-changing landscape and the way that they have managed their anxieties about COVID 19.

Schools are under immense pressure to remain open even when at times other solutions have been suggested; you will be aware of the situation with the schools in Greenwich. We know that many of you have been anxious about sending your children in to school this week and we understand that. We have tried to do all we can to keep them safe and have been closely following all Government and DfE guidance to make sure that we are doing all we can.

Yesterday some preliminary information about the Government's plan for mass COVID testing in schools was released. We are not given any more notice about changes in Government policy than you are. We usually find out when we see it on the news! As we are given more information about mass testing, we will communicate this with you to make sure that you are aware of what is happening.

Please can we urge you to continue to follow all the guidance from the government and the NHS in order to stay safe over Christmas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing/coronavirus-covid-19-meeting-with-others-safely-social-distancing?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

All at the school sincerely hope that you remain safe and well over Christmas, but if your son or daughter does test positive over the Christmas break, please contact us at [covidresponse@aat.uk](mailto:covidresponse@aat.uk) or leave a message on 01474 531495.

In either case please supply the following information

School:

Name of child who has tested positive:

Year group:

Date symptoms began (new persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change in taste or smell):

Date of positive test:

This will allow us to trace any contacts and, if necessary, allow us to inform them that they need to isolate.

As always, thank you for all the support that you have given to Saint George's. We all hope that you have a very peaceful, safe and relaxing Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Lillie'.

**Matt Lillie**  
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Carey'.

**Stephen Carey**  
Executive Headteacher