

Excellence built on
faith and tradition



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“Do your very best
for the children”
(Mother Foundress:
Geneviève Dupuis)

St. Paul's School for Girls

2nd January 2022

Headteacher: Dr D. E. Casserly B.A. (Hons), M.Ed., Ed.D.

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well and have had a wonderful Christmas. If you saw the Midnight Mass televised from St Chad's Cathedral, you, like me, would have been so proud to see Sophie Ashford (8A) and Rosie Kane (12S) serving Mass with such aplomb and an old girl, Ellen Turner, reading so beautifully well. Congratulations!

Happy New Year! May 2022 hold abundant blessings and be blessed with good health, hope of heart, lots of laughter and deep peace.

This letter is just to confirm arrangements for the return to school, this Tuesday 4th January and to update you with government guidance for educational settings as of 2nd January 2022.

Return to school as planned:

As you are aware, from my letter on 16th December 2021, the Government have asked schools to complete one Lateral Flow test on site, for those parents who have given consent, on the first day of term, as we did in the autumn term. Just a reminder of the arrangements:

8:00 am – 8:50 am:	Year 11 New Hall Year 12 and 13 Gym
9:00 am:	Year 10 New Hall Year 7 Gym
10:00 am	Year 9 New Hall Year 8 Gym

Please can your daughter come into school for the above times, however, should you need her to come in at “normal” times, she can just go to the venue to which her year group is allocated.

As pupils have completed their LFT, providing it is negative, they will return to their lessons, as normal, for a Tuesday.

Return to wearing face coverings in the classroom

As you know, we have been wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas at school. The government have updated guidance on the use of face coverings to include now also wearing face coverings in the classroom.

“Face coverings are to be worn in classrooms where pupils in Year 7 and above are educated. The advice is short term only, to support pupils and teachers as they return to school this term and builds on the existing proportionate guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings.”

This will be reviewed by the Government on Wednesday 26th January, and we will of course keep you updated.

We will have a supply of masks in school, should you daughter forget her mask.

Obviously, if your daughter is exempt from wearing a mask on medical grounds, this does not apply to her, but please will you remind her to wear her exemption lanyard or badge. This will also be necessary on public transport.

Self-isolation reduced to 7 days:

You are probably aware that as of 22nd December 2021, the isolation period for those who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 was reduced from 10 to 7 days. Government guidance is now:



“Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.”

Therefore, if your daughter has negative Lateral Flow results on day 6 and 7, she may return to school on day 8. She may not return to school until BOTH results are negative. If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Pellowe rpellowe@stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk or your daughter’s Head of Year.

Twice Weekly Lateral Flow Testing

We are continuing to test twice weekly using lateral flow device (LFD) tests and new testing kits will be distributed by Wednesday.

We are grateful to everyone for all their tremendous support with this as it helps our school community feel more secure. We will also be continuing to take all staff and pupil temperatures as they come into school each day.

Vaccinations:

The School Nursing Team will do follow-up vaccinations in a date to be confirmed in early February, for those parents who have given consent. There is also the option to receive the vaccine out of school, through vaccination centres. Parents can book first vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the NHS booking system. Second doses will be available for eligible children by Monday 20 December. The website is below: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Updating contact details:

If you or any of our listed contacts for your daughter have changed their telephone numbers over the holidays, we would be really grateful if you could update us of any changes. Please telephone reception on 0121 454 0895 or email Miss Pellowe rpellowe@stpaulgl.bham.sch.uk

A Prayer for New Year

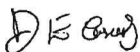
We are really looking forward to seeing your daughter on Tuesday! You may remember this time last year, we were going into another lockdown and so despite the restrictions, it is most certainly better than last year!

I conclude this newsletter with the words of Sr Flora McCarthy as our prayer for our SPG family.

Lord, in this New Year which we have begun,
May we have enough happiness to keep us agreeable,
Enough trials to keep us strong,
Enough freedom to keep us happy,
Enough failure to keep us humble,
Enough success to keep us eager,
Enough wealth to meet our needs,
Enough hope to look forward,
Enough love to give us comfort
And enough fortitude to keep going.
Amen.

With thanks again for all your support and we ask Our Blessed Lady to hold and carry us in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Dr D.E Casserly
Headteacher