

Friday 22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re. October Half-term

This letter marks the end of a very successful first half-term of this academic year. We have celebrated a number of key events, including our 31st anniversary, St Edward's Day and our wonderful commemoration of Black History Month.

Today our staff and students are dressed beautifully to mark International Day. You will find more pictures on our school Facebook page. The picture below shows myself, Ms Said, Mr Adewale and some of our impeccably dressed students today.



Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing. I have been so pleased that, during this first half-term of the 2021/2022 academic year, we have been able to continue school as normal with very little impact from Covid.

To keep everything running well, we ask that encourage your child to continue testing twice a week at home. Please test during the October half-term school holiday and take a test before

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returning to school on Sunday 31st October. We ask that students then test every Sunday and Wednesday during term time to ensure that we maintain our excellent Covid response.

Home test kits are being sent home today with students. Each student will receive a box of 7 tests. More will be distributed when we return from the half-term break to continue testing over the rest of the next half term. If you do require more home testing kits, you can also order more [online](#) through gov.uk or collect from your local pharmacy.

Please contact hope@steds.org.uk if you have any questions about home testing. If you have any concerns that you or your child may have symptoms of Covid or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, you are strongly encouraged to take a PCR test - [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The Government guidance explains that:

- attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it's the legal duty of parents to send your child to school regularly. If you have concerns about your child attending, you should discuss these with the attendance team at the school (attendance@steds.org.uk);
- the [Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health](#) has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only;
- continuing to take regular rapid tests will help to identify infections early and reduce transmission;
- there is no need for primary age pupils to test but adults and children of secondary school age are encouraged to take Covid tests twice each week;
- schools no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace;
- children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact are not required to self-isolate;
- all children aged 12 and over are now eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination.

Thank you for all your help in working with us and your children to keep our community safe and ensuring that St Edward's can continue to run safely and happily.

We have had a wonderful beginning to the academic year. I wish all our families a lovely half-term break and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 1st November.

With my best wishes



Jodie Hassan
Headteacher