

# St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School



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02 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## Urgent Message Re-Birmingham Children's Hospital Winter Pressures

Birmingham Children's Hospital's Emergency Department has been under significant, sustained pressure due to high levels of respiratory infections locally and unprecedented attendances. Across the country, Children's EDs are seeing approximately a 20% increase on previous record attendances, with a number of units reporting a lack of beds for paediatric admissions. BWC is asking colleagues in the community, education and other sectors to help by sharing the following key advice to children, parents and carers to ease the pressure on hard working staff:

- The Children's Hospital Emergency Department is incredibly busy - those who are not seriously ill will face very long waits to be seen and may need to go elsewhere for help.
- Remember, the Children's Hospital Emergency Department can't help with dental or eye issues. For an eye emergency, please attend the Midland Eye Centre at Dudley Road open 9am-7pm. NHS 111 can help with finding and accessing an Emergency Dentist.
- There are things you can try before visiting, such as:
  - View our 'virtual consultations' to hear our doctors' advice on the most common reasons people come to the Emergency Department. [Click here](#).
  - Visit Healthier Together, a website recommended by our doctors, which has advice and resources for parents and young people. [Click here](#).
  - Visit [111 online](#) (for children aged 5 and over) and answer questions about your symptoms on the website. They will tell you what to do next.
- Take these simple steps to keep well this winter:
  - Wash your hands regularly, just like you did during the pandemic.
  - Book your flu jab and COVID-19 booster.

This letter will be accessible on our website and we shall e-mail it to you as well.

Thank you for your support at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs MM Stanley  
Headteacher



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MEMBER



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