

Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF



Champions for children and families

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20/11/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

New national restrictions came into place on Thursday 5 November and will continue until Wednesday 2 December. During this time, in line with the national guidance, all schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead continue to open their doors to pupils and are remaining focused on education.

School leaders and staff have been working hard to make sure that your school is as safe as possible for your children and for all the adults working there.

As some of you will know from direct experience, there have been some confirmed cases of COVID-19 in schools in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. As part of our review of these outbreaks, we have been looking at ways to further improve safety in schools.

In doing this work, it has become clear that there are a small but significant number of incidents where national restrictions and isolation guidance are not being followed by some families. This is putting schools at risk.

It is essential that we all follow the national guidance. Can we please remind you of two important pieces of guidance that you and your families need to follow:

1. **Whilst national restrictions are in place you must not meet socially indoors with family or friends unless they are part of your household or support bubble.**

We have just learnt that some families (who are not part of the same household or support bubble) have been mixing indoors - going to each other's houses for tea, going to others' houses for 'sleep overs' and attending birthday parties. This is against the current national restrictions and puts you, your family and your children's school at risk.

2. **If your child is at home because of the closure of a school "bubble", your child must isolate for the full amount of time as indicated by the school or NHS Test & Trace.**

During this isolation period **they must not leave their home** as they might have coronavirus (even if they show no symptoms).

The guidance on self-isolation is the same for adults and children. If you're self-isolating you must not leave your home:

- do not go to work, school or public places – work from home if you can

- do not go on public transport or use taxis
- do not go out to get food and medicine – order it online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home
- do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for people providing essential care
- do not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one

Guidance on when to isolate and what to do:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Help and financial support while you're self-isolating:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/help-and-financial-support-while-youre-self-isolating/>

We appreciate that is hard to self-isolate and it is important to look after your mental health. Here are some tips that may help:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-while-self-isolating/>

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead will continue to work with schools to reduce the risk for everyone, including sharing breaches of the guidance with the police who have the power to issue fines.

We are all in this together, please help in the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KM Daniel". The initials "KM" are written in a stylized, bold font, and "Daniel" is written in a cursive script below them.

Kevin McDaniel
Director of Children's Services