

Monday 2nd November 2020

Dear Parents,

We have been advised there is a member of staff within the school who tested positive for Covid-19 during the half term break. As a result, they are now self-isolating for the required period of time.

As advised by Public Health England, the infectious period ahead of the positive test for the member of staff was during the half term and therefore, there is no need for staff and pupils within the school to isolate at this time and the school remains open. Your child should continue to attend if they remain well and are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

We have also been advised that there are pupils within the school who have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 during the last week. These pupils have been required to self-isolate for 14 days since the date of contact and will learn from home until they are able to return to school.

Unfortunately, considering the current high levels of infection, it is probable that we will experience a number of situations over the next half term where staff or pupils are in contact with individuals who have tested positive and will therefore be required to self-isolate. We will, of course, inform you immediately should a pupil or any member of staff test positive and take all required actions as directed by Public Health England.

Please be reassured that the school is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily and continues to implement a full range of measures to keep children and staff as safe as possible.

As well as thorough cleaning, we're also continuing to:

- Ensure regular handwashing and providing hand sanitiser
- Staggering entry and exit times
- Ensuring minimal contact with others within school, with each class operating in a 'bubble'

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and will work closely with Public Health England.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms should seek a test and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school/college or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home only.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 119.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours sincerely

Cathryn Andrews
Headteacher