



'working and growing together'

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Quarry

Monday 20th September 2021

Letter to all parents and carers

Dear Parents and carers,

As I am sure you are all aware, over the past 48 hours, school was informed of a number of positive cases amongst pupils and staff in school. This has particularly affected the Year 1 and Year 3 classes.

Today, and yesterday afternoon, we have consulted with Public Health England and the Local Health Protection Team to seek further advice and guidance regarding any further precautionary measures and restrictions that we may need to put in place.

This letter is intended to remind you of some of the expected procedures and restrictions, as well as reiterate some key information in yesterday's letter, and inform you of some of the changes that we need to put in place in order to try to ensure that the number of positive cases is kept to a minimum and to help us avoid any further closure of classes or the school.

TESTING

Whilst it is not mandatory to do so, we would advise that all pupils in Year 1 and Year 3 take a lateral flow test so that we can make sure that we do not have any further undetected cases in school. We are aware that many parents and carers of Year 1 children did this yesterday upon finding out about some of the initial positive cases – this resulted in at least three further positive cases being identified, all of whom had not presented with any of the symptoms expected.



Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Paul Quarry	Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Tim Downes	Deputy Headteacher and EYFS Manager
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Tracey Morgan	Inclusion Manager
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Vikki Scott	SENDCO and KS1 Manager

At this time, it is important that everyone is especially vigilant of any symptoms.

Please remember that if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119.

CLOSE CONTACTS AND TEST AND TRACE

If you or your child tests positive for Covid-19 on a lateral flow test, you should arrange a PCR test to confirm this result as soon as possible (this has to be within two-days).

If you or your child receives a positive PCR test, you will be notified of the actions you should take when you received this result. You will also be contacted by Test and Trace and be expected to name any close contacts you have had in the infectious period.

If you are named as a close contact, NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](#).

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#). As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces;
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport;
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable;
- taking part in [regular LFD testing](#).

You should follow this advice while the contact / person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#).

Those who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school/college/childcare/education setting or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

If you think your child is a close contact but has not have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance

here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

MEASURES TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- **get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and 16-17 year olds are being offered 1 dose of the vaccination by 23 August**
 - anyone over the age of 18 year and six months who is named as a close contact and not fully vaccinated, is not exempt from isolation and would need to complete the full ten day isolation period;
- **wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day**
 - pupils and staff in school have been, and will continue to, do this regularly. Please encourage your children to do so at home also;
- **cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze**
 - pupils in school have been shown how to do this and have discussed why this is important in terms of preventing the spread of germs;
- **put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards**
 - all pupils are encouraged to do this and every classroom has large bins with lids in order to facilitate this;

- **meet people outside and avoid crowded areas**
 - where possible, learning will take place outside as much as it can and we will not be holding whole school assemblies in school;
 - school dinners in the gym will also be temporarily suspended (which may limit the number of choices on the lunch time menu);
 - we would ask that all parents and carers avoid congregating in large groups on the playground at collection and drop-off times and only stay on the school site for as long as is necessary (please avoid congregating around the school gates also as increased numbers will be passing at these busy times);
- **open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside**
 - all classrooms and rooms in school have windows open to provide increased ventilation (as the temperature drops, this will be managed accordingly, along with the use of heating to ensure a well ventilated, comfortable classroom environment);
- **wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places**
 - whilst the use of face masks on site is not mandatory, this would be a sensible further precaution to take currently to protect yourself and others whilst on site at busy times such as pick-up and drop-off;
- **participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>**
 - school staff will continue to test twice weekly currently and in classes where case numbers are particularly high, may be asked to test more frequently;
 - although it is not mandatory, where case numbers are high in particular classes, it would be advisable for children to take a lateral flow (LFD) test to check that they do not have the virus (currently, this would be advisable for pupils in Years 1 and Year 3).

Further measures to help prevent the further spread of the virus within and across year groups:

- **staggered playtimes and lunchtimes**
 - we have reintroduced further staggering to playtimes and lunchtimes to further minimize the mixing of classes at these times;
- **further distancing amongst staff in school**
 - staff in school will return to using allocated areas for breaks;
 - larger group staff meetings will be held virtually at the present time;
 - other smaller group staff meetings, where social distancing cannot be maintained, will also take place virtually;
- **enhanced cleaning**
 - school has continued with much of the enhanced cleaning that was put in place over the past 18 months and this will remain in place, including regular cleaning of touch points and the cleaning of shared equipment between use;

- we will now also put in place 'fogging' as part of a deeper clean in class areas where positive cases are high.
- **Breakfast and Afterschool Club provision**
 - we would ask that you only use Breakfast and Afterschool Club currently if it is essential in a bid to lower numbers at these clubs. Should you be able to withdraw your child(ren) from these clubs for a short period of time, or only use the club on certain days of the week, please contact the school office to make them aware.

FOR MOST PEOPLE, CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) WILL BE A MILD ILLNESS.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Thank you for your understanding and support during these challenging times,

Yours sincerely

Paul Quarry

Headteacher