

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to see all of the children starting back at school - welcome back! While coming back to school is a really important step that we need to take for their education (including their mental and physical wellbeing), we appreciate that the new school year will raise some concerns among you as to what will happen should there be a positive case of coronavirus at school.

Please remember and reassure your child that, for most people, coronavirus should be a mild illness. But we all need to remain vigilant by watching out for symptoms of the virus.

We hope the information in this letter will help you to understand the process and to see how closely we are all working together to keep the risk related to reopening our schools to all year groups, to a minimum.

We have a four step process to tackling Coronavirus. These are:

1. Avoiding those with symptoms and keeping risk of transmission to a minimum.
2. Getting tested
3. Identifying and isolating contacts of positive cases
4. Keeping risk of transmission to a minimum.



Avoiding those with symptoms

We need to prevent Coronavirus coming to school. We need to keep to the national guidance to prevent our children passing on the virus and catching the virus. Like every Autumn/Winter there are many illnesses which are going to be circulating this term, but it is more important this year that if your child is unwell to keep them at home until they have been tested. Likewise, if anyone in the household is unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, please do not send your child into school until you have been tested.

We need to keep the risk of transmission to a minimum, so children will remain in 'bubbles' and groups to prevent mixing with peers and transmission to other bubbles or groups.

Symptoms and testing

We encourage you to continue to be vigilant of coronavirus symptoms which include:

- a new continuous cough,
- high temperature,
- and / or a loss or change in your sense of taste or smell.

If you or someone you know, displays any symptoms, no matter how mild, please **get a free test by calling 119 or visiting NHS.uk**. If in doubt, get a test!

If you are having difficulties accessing a test, please email or telephone the school office for help. Schools have been supplied with a *very* limited of tests which are reserved for those who face *significant* barriers to accessing a test.

No-one with symptoms should attend school.

Anyone with coronavirus symptoms must have a negative test result before your child returns to school. If your child tests positive, please inform the school immediately.

If your child has coronavirus symptoms we need the test result at school, whether it is positive or negative, to enable us assure our community that we are doing all we can to prevent the opportunity for spread the virus in the school.

What happens if anyone in our school confirms to us a positive test for coronavirus (Covid-19)?

- If we experience an outbreak, either because we have 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within 14 days, or we see an increase in pupil or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19), our school senior leaders will contact our local Warwickshire Health Protection Team immediately. The health protection team will work with school to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify the appropriate next steps. Usually, closure will not be necessary, but some groups (or ‘bubbles’) may need to self-isolate.
- We will identify all close contacts of that person and inform them not to come to school/ send them home to self-isolate for 14 days. This prevents the virus from spreading in school.
- As soon as we are informed someone has tested positive we will be swiftly identify all close contacts and inform them not to come to school / send them home to self-isolate for 14 days. This helps to prevent the virus from spreading in school.

- If your child is a ‘close contact’ and needs to self-isolate for this reason, the rest of the household do *not* need to isolate unless your child themselves develops symptoms.

Situation	Isolate
1. I have tested positive for COVID-19	Yes (for 10 days, +48hr after temperature resolves)
2. I have developed symptom and not tested yet.	Yes (until you test negative, if the test is positive see above)
3. I have been told I am a close contact of a case	Yes (for 14 days, unless you develop symptoms and test positive, then see above)
4. A house hold member has developed symptoms and has not tested yet.	Yes (until they test negative, if test is positive isolate for 14 days)
5. A household member has been told to isolate as a close contact.	No. (be vigilant, if they start to feel unwell you will need to isolate until they test and its negative)
6. I visited someone, within 2m, who has now been told to isolate as a close contact.	No. (The person was not symptomatic, if within 48 hrs of the visit they develop symptoms and test positive follow number 3.)
7. I am a close contact of someone who tested positive, I've got tested however and I was negative.	Yes (for 14 days, unless you develop symptoms and test positive, then see above)
8. My sibling in another class and needs to self isolate due to a COVID-19 positive case in their class. I am in a different class	No. (They are not themselves a close contact of a positive case, if their sibling develops symptoms they will need to isolate)
9. My nan is unwell and I saw her 2 days ago.	Maybe. (Need to check if the nan had COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test result and whether they were a close contact. If they were none of those then no. If they test positive then follow number 3.)

Please see the chart → for further examples of when you need to isolate:

Schools are being advised on number of measures to help to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Washing your hands

While coronavirus is not likely to survive for long periods of time on outdoor surfaces in sunlight, it can live for more than 24 hours in indoor environments. Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer, regularly throughout the day will reduce the risk of catching or passing on the virus.



Covering your face

Coronavirus is carried in the air by tiny respiratory droplets that carry the virus. Larger droplets can land on other people or on surfaces they touch while smaller droplets, called aerosols, can stay in the air indoors for at least 5 minutes, and often much longer if there is no ventilation. Face coverings reduce the dispersion of these droplets, meaning if you're carrying the virus you're less likely to spread it when you exhale. It is not mandatory to wear a face mask or covering on school premises but, of course, you are very welcome to do so during drop-off in the mornings and pick-up in the afternoons.

Making Space

Transmission of the virus is most likely to happen within 2 metres, with risk increasing exponentially at shorter distances. While keeping this exact distance isn't always possible, remaining mindful of surroundings and continuing to make space has a powerful impact when it comes to containing the spread.



While coronavirus deaths have significantly reduced, the virus is still circulating in communities and impacting people of all ages across the UK. 'Hands. Face. Space' are simple but vital behaviours that have the power to protect the public from both the short and potential long-term impact of coronavirus.

Please support our whole school community by keeping 2 metres distance from other children and families during school drop-off and pick-up. We understand that this is challenging due to the nature of the school site, and greatly appreciate your patience, ongoing support and consideration for others. Regrettably, we do not have enough staff to supervise parents and carers in maintaining social distance and are relying on your co-operation.

Government guidance for parents and carers

The latest full guidance for what parents and carers need to know about schools during coronavirus can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Implications for staffing and pupils' learning

In all cases, where groups of pupils need to self-isolate or where a larger restriction of attendance at school is needed, we will seek to ensure children's education can continue remotely – this will be via Microsoft Teams if the class teacher her/himself is not unwell with coronavirus symptoms. If the teacher is unwell, work will be sent out to parents via Teachers2parents.

As you might imagine, we are stretched to our limits with staffing in order to maintain the 'bubbles'. We are very sorry for any inconvenience caused to our children and families if we have to close bubbles, or are unable to provide before and after-school care due to staff absence. We realise that this will be greatly inconvenient to parents and carers, but are doing our very best at this tricky time!

Communication between parents / carers and school staff

We encourage all parents to call the school office on 01926 339138 or email admin2622@welearn365.com if there is an important administrative issue. Office staff will not be permitted to visit other groups / 'bubbles' so messages can only be phoned through or emailed. Office staff will not be able to take messages to children in person. Parents will continue to have access to class emails for direct contact, which may speed the process up. *Staff will respond as soon as they are able.* To ensure safety of office staff and parents 2m distancing is mandatory and the office door will remain locked.

Face to face meetings with teachers will not be possible until further notice. If a parent wishes to discuss a matter with a member of staff this can be done via email or by phone.

Visiting professionals will be managed on an individual basis and where this relates to children, parents will be consulted as to the safest way to enable meetings to take place.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope that we all have a healthy, happy term!

Yours sincerely,

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