

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you as we have been advised today that there has been a single confirmed case of Covid-19 within the Primary Phase of the school. Under GDPR (data protection law) I am not allowed to state who this pupil is but I can confirm that the case is localised to one particular year group bubble within the school.

I would like to remind all parents/guardians that you should not send your child into school if they are unwell and/or displaying Covid-19 symptoms. These symptoms include:

- A new persistent cough.
- A temperature.
- A loss of taste and/or smell.

Under ordinary circumstances we may all feel that coming in on a day when we are not well shows grit, determination and resilience but under the current climate we are potentially causing, without realising, more harm than good. It would also be appreciated if you can make the school aware if your child has had a Covid-19 test and tested positive. Please also note that you should not send your child into school if they have a confirmed positive Covid-19 test.

I would like to draw your attention to the latest government guidance that was issued nationally last week and can be found [here](#), as follows:

***If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive test result***

*Stay at home and begin to self-isolate for 10 days from when your [symptoms](#) start. Arrange to have a [test](#) for COVID-19 if you have not already had one. The result of the test will determine how long you must stay at home and self-isolate.*

*Stay at home while you are waiting for a home test kit or a test site appointment.*

*A positive test result means you must complete a 10-day isolation period.*

*If your test is negative, you can stop self-isolating as long as you are well.*

*If you do not have symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19, stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day the test was taken. If you develop symptoms after your test, restart your 10-day isolation period from the day the symptoms start.*

**Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

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*Stay as far away from other members of your household as possible, especially if they are clinically extremely vulnerable. Avoid using shared spaces such as kitchens and other living areas while others are present and take your meals back to your room to eat.*

*You could be fined if you do not stay at home and self-isolate following a positive test result for COVID-19 and you are notified by NHS Test and Trace that you need to self-isolate.*

I know that you may find this concerning and I can fully assure you that as a school we are acting in line with all of the advice and guidance as issued by Public Health England. As a school we have, as outlined in the article within last week's Chronicle and Echo, adopted an approach that has the safety and safeguarding of our pupils first and foremost in mind. We have deliberately left no stone unturned in order to mitigate as many risks as humanly possible. The situation presented to the school is not one of our making. We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number of staff and pupils who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days. This has been actioned to safeguard them and to mitigate risk across the school.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well. Given this confirmed case I have now made the decision that face masks are once again mandatory across the school, both in corridors and communal areas.

### **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 will be eligible for testing 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 or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

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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 111.

### 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 with COVID-19

#### Do

- 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/>

I again want to reassure you that we have taken every possible action possible to safeguard the school community and will continue to work with Public Health England.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr Strickland  
Principal

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