



St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School

Love to learn, Love God, Love one another

15 September 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Important parent/carer advice – new Covid-19 cases in school

Unfortunately, today we have received notification that another member of our school family has tested positive for COVID 19. We have already spoken directly with, and written to, parents/carers whose children are within the relevant class (Year 5/6) and therefore are most likely to have been a 'close contact'.

Control measures have been in place since the start of term, and since the first case last week, we have added to these and also been working closely with the Local Authority who have advised today that due the rising number of cases, sadly, our lovely school is now considered to be at a point of outbreak.

We have daily contact with the Local Authority team to help try to slow down and minimise the risk of transmission. To do so, school and home need to work together, especially for the next few weeks.

In school, for a period of time, children will return to elements of the 'bubbles' as previously seen, remaining separate from other classes both indoors and outdoors where possible. Children should not bring anything in from home other than lunches, water bottles, a coat, essential medication, any necessary sanitary products, school homework, school reading books and a wipe-able school bag. We recommend that children wash their hands, and their bags are wiped clean, before they leave for school in the morning and when they arrive home. We will continue to not have any 'face-to-face' worship or assemblies which involve classes mixing (these have remained 'virtual' since we returned). Our enhanced cleaning regime will continue and children will also continue to be taught within their own class group in ventilated rooms. If the weather is a little chilly, please ensure your child is wearing a vest and jumper/ cardigan. Following the first case last week, staff also returned to wearing face coverings in communal areas and are being encouraged to test on a daily basis. A number of staff who have been identified as contacts have also taken PCR tests.

As parents/carers, we ask that you are vigilant with any possible symptoms of Covid-19 experienced by your child. We have also been made aware through some of the recent cases that this is also presenting itself as a 'poorly tummy', or a headache. Of course, the symptoms do not always mean that Covid-19 is present, however, please be cautious to protect your family, other children, the staff, and our families. Should your child be experiencing any of the main symptoms (listed below), please **DO NOT** send them into school until they have completed a PCR Test and the results have been received. This is essential in

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reducing the risk of transmission to others. If your child displays symptoms whilst in school we will call to ask you to collect urgently and they will wait in a separate ventilated room.

New governmental guidelines advise that children who may have been 'close contacts' are now no longer required to self-isolate. However, given this situation, we, and the Local Authority, are strongly encouraging that our 'close contacts' undertake a PCR test at a local testing centre, to help to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in their family and within our school (and our families) and the wider Parish/community. Therefore, children in the classes with positive cases (Years 2, 3 and 5/6) are strongly encouraged by ourselves and by the Local Authority outbreak teams to arrange for your child to undertake a PCR test. PCR tests can be booked online through the [NHS Test & Trace website \(https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/) or by calling 119.

Should you wish to discuss this with school, please contact the office on 01538 702355 (opt1).

The following information has been shared by the Local Authority.

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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.

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, the normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

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;

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- 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/>

Any children who are self-isolating will receive work from their class teacher to be completed at home so they can continue to learn.

As we are now at this stage with positive cases, we would once again like all adults bringing or collecting children from school to wear a face covering whilst on the school site (unless medically exempt) and maintain social distancing where possible. This will protect the children; you; each other; and the team. We want to be able to keep everyone healthy and also maintain our current school provision, so please help us to do so. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please avoid coming too close and please wear a face covering. It is preferable, and safer at the moment, that all conversations are undertaken by telephone and certainly by prior arrangement.

Once you have dropped or collected your child, please leave the school site so we can avoid groups gathering and therefore reduce risk. If you have children in different classes, please do not arrive early to collect one of them, as you will then need to wait for the other. We will keep them with their classmates until you arrive and both/all are ready. Now they are settled in school, parents and carers of Reception class will, from Monday 20th September, need to drop and collect children at the main double gates at the top of the drive and not gather at the railings. We would appreciate you preparing your child for this change.

Thank you ever so much for your understanding of this situation and for playing your part in keeping us all safe. We are sure you will join us in sending best wishes to those directly involved.

Please stay safe.

Mr A. Brayford
Principal

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