

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Advice for your child to self-isolate**

We have been advised that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within your child's year group.

We have followed the national guidance and been advised by Public Health England that as our children in each year group operate as a 'bubble', your child may have come into close contact with the affected individual. It is advised that your child now **stays at home and self-isolates** until **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, inclusive**. Your child must not go to school or any public areas: your child must remain at home. Further details of what your child needs to do are in NHS Guidance:

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

We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community. If you need support with isolation, please contact Walsall County Council. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period. If your child is well at the end of the period of self-isolation and they have been symptom free for 48 hours, then they can return to usual activities from **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December**, and return to school on this day.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- New continuous cough and/or
- High temperature and/or
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for 10 days and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus). When the result of the child's test is known further advice will be available.

If your child does develop symptoms you can seek advice from the NHS, either by calling 111 or reading the guidance on the website

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

At that time all other household members must also stay at home for 14 days, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

## **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:

- 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 from Woodlands**

The letter above was provided to me by Public Health England and I am required to send this out. It feels impersonal so I want to provide some further information here. I recognise that receiving this letter may be upsetting and frustrating. Our children have done all that we ask but this virus is such that simply sitting in a classroom, next to someone who has tested positive, requires action to prevent further spread.

Since receiving notification that one of our children has tested positive, I have spoken to Public Health England. This is currently an isolated case and requires all those (staff and children) who have been in close contact with the child who has tested positive, to self-isolate. The young person affected has not been in school since Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Learning at home**

There is a further letter that will be sent to you today that details the plans for learning for your child.

**Finally, I appreciate how challenging this situation is for you and your family. If you require any support, please don't hesitate to contact the school.**

- [reception@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:reception@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)
- [postbox@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:postbox@woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)

**We shall continue to monitor the situation carefully and follow all guidance from Public Health England. If there is any further news please be reassured that we shall update you as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely,

T G Newton

Headteacher