

Dear Parents / Carers

What a joy it is to hear happy children around school again, they have come back to school with such eagerness, full of adventurous stories. We hope that you were able to have an enjoyable summer.

Thank you for supporting us with our new routines, the one-way systems and staggered times seem to be working and this morning's drop off was a lot smoother than I had anticipated.

A reminder that collection times allow 10 minutes for half of the children to be collected. Please do not arrive early for collection as this creates too many people waiting in the school site.

Collection time	
3:25pm	3:35pm
6B, 5AP, 4P, 3R, 2W, 1SB, RW	6W, 5SP, 4G, 3C, 2R, 1S, RP

### **Local Lockdown**

The Department for Education has published some updated guidance for schools to follow in the event of a local lockdown or if part of the school/or bubble needs to close.

We have a duty to comply with health and safety law and as a result, we have drawn up a comprehensive risk assessment which has been agreed by the Governing Board and sent to the Local Authority. A copy is available on the website. We have a range of proportionate control measures in place which include:

- A requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- Robust hand and respiratory hygiene (including the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach)
- Enhanced cleaning (which includes toilets cleaned at lunchtime)
- Active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- A reduction of contacts between children and adults and maximising distancing so far as is reasonably practical (this includes grouping children in year group 'bubbles', avoiding contact between these groups, arranging classrooms with forward facing desks and staff maintaining distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible)

We will review all of our procedures on a regular basis and make amendments or changes where needed and advise parents/carers when appropriate. We will also review procedures in line with any updated advice or guidance from Public Health England and the DfE.

There are a set of actions schools must take which are classed as 'prevention' and 'response'.

#### **Prevention**

No pupil, staff or other adult must come into school if they have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive in the last 10 days.

Anyone who becomes ill in school with symptoms will be sent home (new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or a loss of or change in normal smell or taste) and asked to follow the

guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>). This states you should self-isolate for at least 10 days and arrange to have a test.

If they test positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.

Other members of their household (including any siblings), should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

If your child shows symptoms and is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

In an emergency, we will call 999 if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

#### Response to any infection

The school has a duty to engage with the NHS Test and Trace process. If need be, staff members and parents need to be ready and willing to;

- Book a test (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>) if they or their child are displaying symptoms
- Provide details of anyone they or their child has come into close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- Self-isolate if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus or if anyone in their household develops symptoms of coronavirus

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS testing and tracing for coronavirus (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus>) website or by telephone via NHS 119

School has been provided with a small number of home testing kits which we can give directly to parents/carers when collecting their child.

1. If a child, adult or member of staff tests negative, if they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus, they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus such as a cold or flu – in which case, it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of the household can stop self-isolating.
2. If someone tests positive, they should follow the guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>) and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and return to school ONLY if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. The 10 day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should keep self-isolating for the full 14 days.

We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended school has tested positive for coronavirus and will contact our local health protection team. This team will also contact school directly if they become aware of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and attended school- as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

We will be guided through the actions we need to take by the health protection team at all times. We will be given definitive advice on who must be sent home. School will keep a record of pupils and staff in each group and any close contact that takes place between children and staff in different groups.

Close contact means:

- Direct close contacts – face-to-face with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face-to-face conversation, or unprotected physical contacts (skin-to-skin)
- Proximity contacts – extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes with an infected individual)
- Travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Please note, we will NOT share the names or details of people with coronavirus unless we are advised it is essential to protect others.

We will not ask for evidence of negative test results or any other medical evidence before welcoming children back into school after a period of self-isolation.

If school has 2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus within 14 days or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus is suspected, we will work with the local health protection team who will advise if additional action is required.

#### Process in the event of local outbreaks

If a local area sees a spike in infection rates that is resulting in localised community spread, the appropriate authorities (not school) will decide which measures to implement to help contain the spread. The DfE will be involved in decisions at local and national level affecting a geographical area and will support the appropriate authorities and individual settings (schools) to follow health advice.

For individuals or groups of self-isolating pupils, we will have remote education plans in place for these pupils. This will involve work available on the website in year groups (as previously). There will be a mix of online work, worksheets and practical activities.

In the event of a local outbreak, the Public Health England health protection team or local authority may advise the school (or a number of schools) to close temporarily. This would mean remaining open only to the children of critical key workers and vulnerable pupils with work available online as previously described.

At all stages we will follow health advice and keep parents/carers informed of any developments.

#### Misleading information about the process for suspected tests

Birmingham City Council and schools have been made aware of rumours that have been circulating online about how suspected cases of COVID in pupils will be dealt with when they return to school. These messages are intended to mislead and in no way reflect how Birmingham schools will respond to children with symptoms. Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health, confirmed this in videos that the council has posted to twitter

(<https://twitter.com/BhamCityCouncil/status/1300831895249395715>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=799020854258788>). You may need to copy and paste the Twitter link into your browser to access.

### **Other information/reminders**

If you have a message for the class teacher, please email or telephone the school office so they can pass the message on. **No messages will be accepted on the door.** In addition, the school office will not be able to pass on forgotten belongings, coats, bags, PE kits etc.

Please can we continue to ask parents/carers to adhere to social distancing recommendations when dropping off/picking up your children from school and not to congregate at the school gates.

We have a one adult per family system in operation currently to reduce the number of adults on the premises and contact between us all.

If you have any concerns or queries, please get in touch with us via the school office and we will do our best to help as always.

I appreciate that this is a lengthy letter, but it is one that you might wish to save for future reference.

Yours sincerely

*Jayne Luckett*

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