



Holywell Primary School

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we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

5th January 2022

Dear Parent or Carer

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope everyone managed to stay safe during the festive season.

I am sure you are well aware of the high numbers of Coronavirus cases in the country. During the break, I have no doubt we enjoyed our time and we would have used the opportunity to catch up with friends and family. This obviously increases the risk of being infected with the virus so therefore we will be very cautious over the next month.

I will continue to monitor the number of Positive Coronavirus cases that we have in the school and will keep you well informed. Can I ask that you please keep the school informed (via the School Office) about illness and all matters related to expected or confirmed COVID infections.

We will continue with the measures implemented on the 24th November 2021. These measures aim to reduce the spread of the virus from infected cases. At the end of last term, the number of infected cases reduced in school but being cautious will give us a good understanding of where we are at the beginning of the year.

Our priority continues to be the delivery of face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils.

These measures implemented in November include:

Face Coverings

- Re-introduction of face coverings for visitors and staff in corridors and communal areas, including staffrooms (where close contact cannot be avoided).
- **Parents** – Reintroduction of wearing face coverings on school grounds.

Shared Areas

- Designated toilets for year groups.
- Students coming to school in PE kit.
- Equipment sharing may also be limited and any shared resources such as sports, art and science equipment, will be cleaned frequently and between use by different classes/groups.



Limiting activities

Planned events/activities will be reviewed and risk assessments conducted to determine if these can proceed in line with an agreed system of additional controls or should be postponed.

For example:

- Open days, transition or taster days
- Visitors/parental attendance
- Performances/events
- Assemblies
- Off site visits
- Hire/lettings
- Sports fixtures with other schools
- Swimming lessons

We will inform parents on a case by case basis.

Reduction in interaction/close contact situations

- Re-introduction of space at the front of the class to enable staff to maintain distance from students.
- Layouts and capacities for shared spaces such as offices, meeting rooms, staff room etc. will be reviewed to limit numbers.
- Face to face meetings to be restricted to those which are essential.
- Large meetings/all staff briefings will be re-scheduled or undertaken remotely to reduce contact between staff.

Staffing

Decisions on staffing levels will be made dependent on numbers/needs of pupils present in school.

Re-introduction of bubbles

Re-introduction of bubbles for a temporary period, except Year 6, who will make a year group bubble.

Testing

- If your child has been in close contact with a confirmed case(s) they should be contacted by Track and Trace and advised to take a PCR test.

School meals

- The school will continue to provide meal options for all pupils in school.

Siblings

If you have a child that has tested positive to COVID-19, it may be that we ask you to keep your siblings at home to isolate, however current guidance state they can continue to come to school.

I must insist that you do all you can to ensure that your child does not have COVID when they are unwell. Although lateral flow tests are not advised for primary school aged children, parents can book a PCR test online to get absolute clarity, if your child has COVID or not. The walk in centre next to the school is very convenient for this. Not many children get ill with COVID and can spread the virus unknowingly because they are asymptomatic.

General COVID information

Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting 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 to your destination
- 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 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your co-operation, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours faithfully



Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher

Appendix A

How to book a test online when you have been identified as a close contact but do not have symptoms yourself

- 1) Go to [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-PCR-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)
- 2) Scroll down and select start now
- 3) Is the person who needs a test an essential worker? **Select NO**
- 4) Test available scroll to bottom **Select continue**
- 5) Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? **Select NO, none of these symptoms**
- 6) Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test? **Select NO**
- 7) Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? **Select none of the above.**
- 8) Why are you asking for a test? **Select I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.** Then **Select My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms.** **Select continue**
- 9) Complete your details and select how you wish to receive your test.