



Date Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will already be aware that the Government has introduced new more stringent measures with effect from today to try to reduce the spread of coronavirus. These are the **New National Restrictions** which apply to the whole of England. This is a direct result of increasing infection rates across the country and pressures that are now being placed upon the NHS.

The Government has been very clear in their direction that **all schools should remain open, which as a Trust we fully support**. They are asking us to do this to prevent the detrimental impact of another lockdown on our children's health, wellbeing, education and their later life chances. It is important that all children come to school every day unless they need to self-isolate or there is a bubble closure.

For our academies the new measures will mean little change. We have already been operating within the highest tier of our graduated risk assessment and in some instances, such as the wearing of face masks and our approach to not mixing bubbles, have gone beyond DfE guidance. We will continue to do all that we can to prevent the risk of infection to our staff, children and families. Our academies are operating in areas that have some of the highest infection rates in the country. So, we ask that our families do all that they can to support these restrictions at this time. It is very important that we all continue to play our part.

This means that we all need to:

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Only mix with your household or support bubble (single adults or single parent families)
- Do not invite any visitors to your house or garden
- Wear a mask in all public places including drop off and collection from school
- Try to remain in the area that you live

Although school is open, it is important that only well children come to school. If your child has any symptoms, then they should not come to school. Please contact the school office to let us know.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

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

If your child or any member of the household develops any of these symptoms, then you should stay at home and arrange to have a test as soon as possible. You can do this by searching 'Book a coronavirus test online' or by calling 119. Once you have taken a test, then your household should stay at home until the result is received. If anyone in the household receives a positive result, then the whole family must stay at home and self-isolate. If all members are negative, then your child may return to school as long as you have not been told to isolate by the Test and Trace Service. Should you have any questions or need any help please contact the academy that your child attends.

Thank you for your understanding. We know that this is a very difficult and stressful time for parents and we value your partnership with us greatly.

Mr Antony Hughes
CEO

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