

11th September, 2020
Coronavirus - COVID-19 – Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of the children's first week back at school, I wanted to thank you for your support in working alongside us to ensure a safe and happy return to the classroom for everyone. It has been a pleasure to welcome all children back to our sites and see learning resume with such enthusiasm and excitement.

In light of the increased number of cases being reported by the media at the moment, I felt it would be an appropriate time to reassure you of the measures we are taking to keep our pupils and staff safe.

We have a range of preventative measures in place, including:

- insisting anyone who is ill or who has someone in their household who is, does not attend school
- ensuring robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- using enhanced cleaning arrangements
- reducing contacts through the use of 'bubbles' or groups of children. We will avoid contact between these groups where reasonably practicable

You will also notice other local arrangements in place such as the use of different entrances/exits, increased ventilation, use of staggered start and end times and one-way systems. Please support our staff by maintaining social distancing with other parents and only remaining on site as long as necessary.

To ensure we all remain safe, we ask that all parents and carers understand they need to be ready and willing to engage in the NHS test and trace process to ensure any cases are quickly identified and measures put in place to minimise transmission. Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus](#) website, or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet.

Our approach in response to a child or member of staff testing positive for coronavirus is in line with all government guidance. We will take swift action if we are informed someone has attended one of our schools and has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Should this happen we will immediately contact our local health protection team who will complete a full assessment and advise on who should be asked to self-isolate. Parents will be kept fully informed.

If children are self-isolating (whether this be an individual child or a whole bubble), we will continue to provide education remotely. As some of you will be aware, we trialled the use of Microsoft Teams to deliver online teaching and this may be one of the tools we use to continue your child's learning.

We will continue to follow all government guidance as well as public health advice and will adapt risk assessments and procedures should that guidance change or be updated. If you have any questions regarding our approach, please contact your headteacher in the first instance so any concerns can be resolved quickly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools