

Court Fields School

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6 December 2020

Dear Parents of all Year 8 children,

Please read the whole of this message before doing anything further.

I understand that this letter may cause some concern, however please rest assured that the following measures are precautionary and that we are following all available government guidance to ensure the safety of our students, staff and the wider community.

- We have been advised that there has been a single confirmed case of COVID-19 within the Year 8 group at the school.

Please do not phone or contact the school office so we keep phone lines clear for Public Health England to contact the school and support us in dealing with this. There is no further information at this point other than is in this letter, and this letter will give you all the information you need at this time. We will update you as and when we know anything more.

Arrangements for track and trace:

We have completed our process of establishing what close contact the child who has tested positive had with other children.

Close contact

- direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (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, for example a car, with an infected person

As Year 8 have been within a Year group bubble, and there have been effective precautions in place to identify close contacts, along with the wearing of masks in corridors and communal areas, we have identified 29 close contacts.

These close contacts include your child. We will have contacted you by phone personally to discuss this with you. If you have not spoken to us, it is because we have not been able to get through to you on our emergency contact numbers.

Your child will now need to self-isolate, up to and including Wednesday 16th December and return to school on Thursday 17th December 2020.

This is 14 days since the last contact in school your child would have had with the student who has tested positive. This is under the guidance of Public Health England.

I fully appreciate the magnitude of this decision but the school is acting upon the advice of Public Health England. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14-day self-isolation period.

Please note – you should not arrange for a test unless your child or a member of the household develops symptoms.

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

If you need to report that your child has tested positive for Covid-19, please use our dedicated email address confidential@courtfields.net. Please leave your details including your child's name, date of birth, year group, and a contact number. This email address is monitored 24 hours, and we will contact you as a matter of priority.

Home Learning

We will be in contact with you tomorrow to advise you of the specific arrangements for remote learning from Monday 7th to Wednesday 16th December 2020, as your child will be expected to follow their timetable when self-isolating. They will also need to access the online checking each day by 9:00 for safeguarding purposes.

Work will be set on ClassCharts, as it was during lockdown, for each subject that your child has on their timetable. Students should continue to work at home for the same length of time allocated to each subject when they are in school. We suggest that students use their own school timetable to manage their day and maintain the typical structure of the school day.

However, we understand that each family's context is different so please adjust the home learning guidance as required to suit your circumstances. If you have any concerns at all, please get in touch by emailing the office at sch.552@educ.somerset.gov.uk and we will ask your child's tutor to get in touch.

If your child normally receives Free School Meals we will contact you tomorrow to issue you with vouchers to the value of the Free School Meals allocation for the 8 school days of their self-isolation.

I understand the concern this information will cause and I once again stress the importance of parents following the guidance set out by the government. Students who are symptomatic or awaiting test results must self-isolate and not be sent to school. Please could I also ask that you reinforce with your children the importance of acting responsibly when in school and when travelling to and from school. It is absolutely vital that they follow the guidance during this critical time because no one wants to have to self-isolate over the Christmas period.

The fact that PHE have confidence in our identification of just 29 children for self-isolation is testament to the procedures we have in place, the conduct of our Year 8 students, the support of our Year 8 families and the hard work of our staff. Thank you to all involved.

As always, thank you all for your cooperation and understanding in these most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Polly Matthews', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Polly Matthews
Acting Headteacher

COVID 19 Information Sheet

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able to, it is recommended you move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' 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>

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help to reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- 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

Further information is available at

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