

# Court Fields School

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Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been advised by Public Health England that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Year 8 group at the school. As the whole Year 8 bubble has been self-isolating from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, this means that these two students were only in school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

We have identified the close contacts of the students, however, on the advice of Public Health England, and with the Christmas period approaching, we have requested that the whole Year 8 bubble continue to self-isolate.

Their original self-isolation period of 14 days had been reduced in line with new Government guidance to 10 days. This means that they will now need to continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the last day the positive student cases were in school. That is, until 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**These positive cases do not include Years 7, 9, 10 & 11, and this letter is for your information only.**

I must stress again the absolute importance of talking to your child please. Christmas is just around the corner, and I know that many families are looking forward to seeing loved ones over the 5 day period allowed by the Government. Students must ensure that they:

- Wear a mask indoors in corridors and communal areas. This means that the mask must be put on BEFORE they leave the classroom, or BEFORE they enter a building.
- Wear a mask outside when they are queuing for lessons or the Canteen. This means they must do this WITHOUT being reminded.
- Use the hand sanitiser on entry and exit from each classroom, WITHOUT having to be reminded.

I know that the Covid restrictions are impacting on us all, but our students have acted so responsibly and responded so well to these challenging times, that we cannot let things slip. We have just 3 school days to keep everyone safe for the Christmas period.

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.

Whilst I fully understand this will cause anxiety amongst the school community, I can assure you all necessary steps are being taken to minimise risk to others. We will continue to follow our procedures to minimise contacts between different Year groups within school. Our procedures have been discussed with Public Health England and the Local Authority, as part of the rapid risk assessment that schools must undertake, and they have complimented us on the measures we have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

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



The PLEdge

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**If you need to report that your child has tested positive for Covid-19, please use our dedicated email address [confidential@courtfields.net](mailto: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.**

If you are concerned that your child may be displaying symptoms, which you cannot immediately identify as the main Covid symptoms, please do keep them at home and under observation for 24 hours. If they do show any of the main symptoms then please book a test and follow the information above. If not, and the symptoms continue to be just that of a common cold etc, then please do send them back into school, when fit enough to return.

The fact that PHE have confidence in our identification of a small number of children from two year groups for self-isolation is testament to the procedures we have in place, the conduct of our students, the support of our families and the hard work of our staff. We all deserve some relaxation, time with loved ones and a healthy, happy Christmas and New Year and I sincerely hope that this will be the case.

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/>