

Court Fields School

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Acting Head of School: Mrs P Matthews

Executive Head: Mrs S Watson

13th December 2020

Dear Parents of all Year 8 children,

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

I am very sorry to have to write to you again, only 24 hours after my email yesterday, but I would rather we respond robustly to ensure that we keep our community safe.

- We have been advised by Public Health England today that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19, who were in school on Monday 7th December, during their potentially infectious period.
- One of these cases displayed no symptoms, and so was asymptomatic.
- I have this afternoon, discussed this at length with Public Health England. They took into account the recent change to the isolation guidance for this Year Group, the proximity to the Christmas period, and the risk of potential asymptomatic transmission.
- **The advice from Public Health was that the whole Year 8 bubble must continue to self-isolate until 17th December. That will be 10 days since the last day the positive student cases were in school (in line with the new Government guidance).**

I know that some of you were understandably anxious following the change in the Government advice, reducing the isolation time from 14 to 10 days. This additional self-isolation period will mean that the Year 8 bubble will not return to school until the New Year, and will hopefully reduce your anxiety before families meet together at Christmas.

As Public Health have requested that we continue to isolate the whole Year 8 bubble, your child will now need to self-isolate, up to and including Thursday 17th December. This is 10 days since the last contact in school your child would have had with the students who have tested positive.

This means that they will not return to school until the New Year, on Monday 4th January 2021. This is under the guidance of Public Health England.

Arrangements for track and trace:

We have also established what close contact the child who has tested positive had with other children. We will advise those parents individually, however, this is for information only, as the whole Year 8 bubble will be self-isolating.

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

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 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

Students should continue their online learning from until the end of the day on the 16th December, and your child will be expected to follow their daily timetable, as they have done for the past week. Full details are also on our website in the Online Learning Guide here: <https://www.courtfields.net/coronavirus-guidance/>

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.

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 self-isolating must not leave their home. Family members should take extra precautions regarding hygiene to reduce the potential risk of infection. Students who are not self-isolating, who become symptomatic or are 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, socially distancing themselves when possible, wearing a mask indoors and when unable to social distance outside, and avoiding contact with each other at all times. These Covid precautions will need to continue well into the New Year. Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding in these most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely



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/>