

NORTH NEWTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE"

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Dear Parents

Covid-19 Information Letter – Update

You may be aware, two Taunton schools have had confirmed cases of Covid-19, and have acted in line with Public Health England's advice. I thought it would be helpful to clarify a few areas. I am currently self-isolating in line with guidance, but expecting a negative result as soon as possible, having been tested on Monday. We have, today, tried to order more home-testing kits and hoping this will help my staff should they or any of their children require a test. We do not have enough kits to offer them to families, and must prioritise to my staff as we continue to keep the school open.

Should my child come to school?

In line with all previous letters sent, if your child has a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell, they are experiencing symptoms that may be caused by coronavirus. They must not attend school and you should arrange for a test through the government's website. Currently, national testing system appears to be struggling, but to prevent any potential spread of infection, you and your household must self-isolate until you have a negative test result. Once your negative result is received, please forward the message to the office for our records. If the test result comes back positive, you must also let us know immediately and we will follow guidance from Public Health England (PHE).

If someone other than your child in your household is displaying symptoms, your child must not come to school until that person has received a negative test result. If you have a child in your household who has been told to self-isolate because they have been part of a school bubble where a positive case has been confirmed, only they need to self-isolate because only they have been in close contact with that confirmed case. In line with guidance, your other children should still come to school. If your child develops symptoms that could be caused by Covid-19, we will contact you to collect them and you should book a test.

If your child has symptoms of a common cold, such as a blocked or runny nose or a sore throat, it is likely to be just that – a common cold – and they should still come to school, if they feel well enough to do so. If they have a new, continuous cough or a high temperature with it though, they should be tested for coronavirus.

What will happen if a test comes back positive?

We all need to be well-prepared for the eventuality that a child or adult at our school is confirmed to have Covid-19. It has happened in other local schools already and so it seems reasonable to assume that it will happen at some point for us too as the number of cases nationally is currently rising again. Please remember that for most people, Covid-19 is a mild illness. However, for some people it can become serious. We must appreciate the measures that affected schools will take will be inconvenient, but they are essential to ensure that the virus doesn't spread so widely over the coming months the NHS becomes overwhelmed.

If a positive case is confirmed, we will work with PHE and follow their advice – probably sending the affected bubble home to self-isolate for 14 days. The bubble will then return to home learning.

Please remember that as a relatively small primary school, we have chosen to arrange in 2 bubbles to allow us to work more effectively for the vast majority of the time, however should an increased number of staff have to self-isolate within a bubble, we may be faced with bubble closure.

What does the home learning look like if my child has to self-isolate for 14 days?

Depending on the age of the child, we will expect your child reads their current book and completes a range of English and Maths tasks on a daily basis, provided they are well enough to do so. In addition to daily reading (don't forget to complete reading logs for lots of house points upon returning), weekly spellings should be practised, Pobble 365 can be accessed and stories / poems / interesting sentences can be written from the images. Your child will also be aware of their class topic, so they can research aspects. We also fully endorse the Oak National Academy lessons, which are free to all parents – they are excellent and have remote lessons with teachers on all manner of topics...year-specific too!

I have further questions...

Please email the school office@nncps.org and we will do our best to answer it.

As we enter the probability of bubble / school closure for 14 days at a time, please continue to talk to your children about the importance of handwashing and maintaining social distancing. Rest assured, my staff will continue to do our very best to provide quality provision and look after everyone in the school but we must all be prepared if a positive result is received.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Kind regards

Nick Arnold
Headteacher