

16th September 20

Dear Parent/Guardian,

There have been many questions, we hope that the content of this letter will begin to answer some of them.

Before school reopened

You will be aware that in order for school to open, we have had to undertake a rigorous Risk Assessment process which has been scrutinised by the Local Authority and external advisors. This assessment includes the measures and procedures we have put in place in school to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

What are the COVID-19 symptoms?

The three identified symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new persistent cough further defined as persistent coughing for more than an hour or 3 bouts of coughing in a 24-hour period
- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or more
- A loss or change of taste or smell

What should I do if my child shows any of the symptoms of Covid-19?

1. Keep your child at home and follow the Test, Trace and Protect procedure.
2. Contact school and let us know that your child is being tested.
3. Your household must also self-isolate as you wait for the test results.
4. As soon as you receive the results of the test, it is your responsibility to notify school.
5. Stay at home if you, or anyone you live with or anyone in your extended household has Covid-19 symptoms

What do I do if my child's results are positive?

You should be contacted by NHS Wales Test, Trace and Protect service.

The Contact Tracer will ask for details of your recent close contacts, they will explain what this means and help you through the process.

- A close contact is a) someone within 1 metre of you with whom you have had a face-to-face conversation, had skin-to-skin physical contact, you have coughed on, or been on other forms of contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer...b) someone within 2 metres of you for more than 15 minutes...c) someone you have travelled in a vehicle with, or seated near you in public transport.

What happens if I am a confirmed contact?

- If you are identified as a confirmed contact, you are at increased risk of catching the disease and passing it on to others. The Contact Tracer will get in touch and ask you to self-isolate for 14 days.

- Members of your family are not required to self-isolate, but they should follow the general social distancing guidance and avoid contact with you whilst you are isolating at home.
- You will also be asked to monitor your symptoms so that you get tested as soon as possible if you start to show any of the COVID-19 symptoms.

What about school?

If you contact us and tell us that your child has tested positive for COVID-19, it is very likely that our first reaction will be to advise all parents whose children are in that contact group to stay home until we get in touch with you later.

School will need to wait until the Tracer has contacted school before we can advise if your child is able to return to school or will need to remain home and self-isolate.

In the meantime, your child's classroom will be deep cleaned, the Local Authority will be notified and the rest of school will carry on as usual.

If my child has to self-isolate because another child in their contact group has tested positive, do the rest of my children and household members have to self-isolate too?

Only the child from the identified contact group has to self-isolate for 14 days. The other siblings and family members are able to carry on attending school/work etc.

What about my child's learning if they have to stay at home?

Your child's teacher will ensure that activities are available for them so they can continue via distanced learning (as we did when we were in lockdown).

I am not sure if my child just has a cold or Covid-19 or if their symptoms are due to asthma. What should I do?

It is hard sometimes to know what is best to do. A good starting point is to watch the video clip from Dr Heather Payne, a Paediatrician at the Welsh Government which has been Scooped to you this morning.

My child has come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, what should I do?

If your child is living with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 then they need to follow guidance on self-isolation. If they have been identified as a confirmed contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus then they will be contacted by the NHS Wales Test, Trace and Protect service. The Contact Tracer will advise you to ensure that your child self-isolates for 14 days from their last contact with the person who has tested positive. In this instance, your child should not attend school but can continue their learning from home.

What is the school's procedure if they are made aware of a Covid-19 case?

All parents of pupils and staff are required to contact the school at the point that they receive a positive test result.

Each individual will have been advised to self-isolate at home by the Track, Test and Protect Service.

As part of the tracking process, the Contact Adviser will ask the individual for the details of close contacts to assess who may need to be contacted and advised to self-isolate.

If an individual or any subsequent close contacts are identified as a pupil or member of staff at the school, the school receives a notification from Track, Test and Protect Service, and may be instructed to supply contact details.

School will forward advice in the form of letters to the whole school, to the contact group, to all staff and to specific staff who have been with the contact group. Advice given will be specific to each audience.

What happens if my child becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms when in school?

If an individual (child or adult) is at school and starts to display symptoms of COVID -19 they will be accompanied to our isolation room. The child's parents will be contacted to collect them immediately and then to arrange to have a test for COVID-19. If an adult, then they will need to go home immediately and arrange to be tested. The isolation room will then be deep cleaned.

What measures have been put in place to ensure my child is safe?

The safety of our children and staff is our main priority and school staff have been working hard since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak to put health and safety measures in place. Learning areas, classrooms and the playgrounds are set out to minimise contact between individuals, guidance signage is clearly displayed across the site and additional hand cleaning and sanitising areas have been provided. Our opening, closing and internal timetables are staggered to reduce the number of people in an area at any one time. In addition, enhanced cleaning schedules are in place throughout the day. Measures will continue to be updated in line with the latest Welsh Government guidance.

I have heard that someone in my child's class is off school and has had a COVID-19 test. Do I send my child to school?

Yes, your child should attend school. The parent will contact school when the test result is known and if positive, school will take the appropriate steps as laid out above.

I am sure there will be many more questions as the term goes on but I hope this helps with the frequently asked questions.

Helen Evans

Headteacher