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Advice to All Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wrote to all parents/carers yesterday explaining the context for the multiple cases in year 13. Unfortunately there were 4 more positive cases in year 13 reported in the past 24 hours leaving too few students in school to make their classroom learning productive. I have therefore, reluctantly had to send the whole year group home for a period of time, as a 'circuit breaker', to allow more equitable learning and to manage staff workload sensitively. I have written to parents of that year group separately.

I repeat what I wrote yesterday, that outside of year 13, we have had only 4 cases in 3 other year groups over nearly 12 weeks of school since September. The year bubbles continue to work effectively to prevent the infection from crossing year groups. From the perspective of the rest of the school, there has been no change to our very fortunate position in which our cases remain very low.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are following government guidance. Please see the information at the end of this letter.

The school remains open and, if you have not been contacted separately, your child should continue to attend as normal if s/he remains well.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Elphick
Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and 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'.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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, 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.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your 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 the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help 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/>