



# ACKLAM WHIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Always a chance for everyone!”

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all doing well and keeping safe. I am writing to you all with regards to the recently announced local lockdown in Middlesbrough which came into force at one minute past midnight on Saturday morning. Obviously, the restrictions put in place for the area are very serious and are now law. I thought I should update you with how these restrictions affect us at school.

### **Face Coverings – Do parents and children have to wear a mask on the school site ?**

No. There is no change in the updated guidance for Primary Schools on this. In education settings where pupils and students in Year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by staff, visitors and pupils/students but this **does NOT apply** to primary schools. Parents and carers may wear masks in the playground when dropping off and picking up children, but this is **not compulsory** as it goes against PHE’s advice on use of coverings outside. At the moment, the only time we are requesting that you wear a face covering, is for Nursery Parents when coming into the Nursery cloakroom. Further Government guidance can be found here <https://bit.ly.co/3nuM>.

### **In the new laws it says we must not meet with people who you do not live with indoor (or outside as a recommendation) – does that still apply to the school playground?**

Yes it does. Reducing social contact is uppermost in the new guidelines and the playground cannot be used as a social area to meet up and chat. Please keep entrances and exits clear and keep to a social distance at all times. This is not just because of the restrictions but also because of the anxiety and worry it causes others, particularly vulnerable people from our families. During the past month, we have been shouted at, sworn at and verbally abused for trying to follow the guidelines and ensuring that everyone is kept as safe as we can. We don’t always get everything right, but my staff have worked so hard under unbelievably challenging and ever changing circumstances and we are doing everything we can to keep our school safe, thriving and most of all, open. We need your help and cooperation with this and for the vast majority of cases, we get it. Your support has been incredible and heartening. The only way we can get through this, as a school, community and town, is working together and staying together.

### **Have the rules on childcare changed ? Can my child be looked after by childminders or after school clubs?**

You can continue to use early years and childcare settings, including childminders and providers offering before or after school clubs or other out-of-school settings for children. Mr Jackson will continue to run his clubs for specific bubbles. Parkway continues on site as normal and can be contacted on 01642 813938 or email [info@parkwaydaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@parkwaydaynursery.co.uk). You can also visit their website: <http://www.parkwaydaynursery.co.uk/>. Children of parents who are separated can continue to move between households. Play-dates or parties are not allowed.

### **School ‘X’ down the road are doing things differently – why aren’t you ?**

Every school has the same set of guidelines from the Government which are constantly being updated. Schools that are part of Academy Trusts or within neighbouring authorities may have different interpretations on the guidelines and deliver them in ways that may be different to us. We meet with the Local Authority every week as well as meeting virtually with local colleagues regularly to ensure we are following the very latest guidance and best practice. We are also working with the Local Authority Health and Safety team to keep our Risk Assessment updated and will be inspected again in the next couple of weeks.

### **My child only has a temperature but is otherwise fine, can I still send them into school?**

If your child, or anyone in your household, is showing ANY of the symptoms of Covid 19, **PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL**. All members of the household need to isolate immediately and the person with symptoms should have a Covid test.

The symptoms of Covid are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. All members of the household must also isolate until the result of the test is back. Please keep us updated if you have taken them for a test and please let us know the confirmed result (and only access a COVID test for individuals if they develop symptoms).

### **Other schools are having outbreaks – What will happen if and when ours does ?**

Under the current guidance children who have been in close contact with a pupil or staff member with a positive Covid-19 case will have to self-isolate at home. We will obviously deal with this if it does arise and the whole year group may have to isolate. We are fully prepared for the circumstances of a positive case at Acklam Whin and you will be notified by our ParentApps app (please make sure you have notifications turned on) of all the guidance and support you will need as well as information on how you and your child will be able to access remote education during a self-isolation period.

Guidance has been provided by the Government that local restrictions will be in-line with the broader North East restrictions which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-east-of-england-local-restrictions#travel-restrictions>

And finally to ensure we keep as safe as possible and keep Covid-19 from our door please can you help us with the following – some of which I am repeating for the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> time this term:

- please try to stay at least 2 metres away from anyone you do not live with (or anyone not in your support bubble) – particularly in the playgrounds if you are waiting to pick up your child
- if there is a build up of people at a gate, please be patient and wait for people to pass
- please use the one-way system in the KS2 playground and keep the access clear
- please ensure children dismount their scooters/bikes when on the school grounds – we had a nasty accident on Friday when a child fell over on a scooter in the playground
- please wear a face mask if you bring your child into the Nursery cloakroom
- please do not park on the pavements or yellow lines outside school – for obvious reasons
- please do not bring dogs onto site, even being carried. Not only is there a danger risk but we also have a growing number of children who have severe allergies to dogs and can be seriously affected. We really need your support with this
- please speak to us if you have any questions or concerns about your child in school
- continue to do the amazing job you are doing and working with us to ensure our children are safe and happy in school.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support. These are worrying times for our town and community. As ever, please come and talk to us (myself or Mrs Prince are out every day) or give us a call if you have any questions or concerns. We will get through these challenging times by supporting, communicating and working together to keep everyone safe and well.

Keep safe,

Mr Gamble