



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. Tomorrow sees a return to ‘Lockdown’ restrictions across the UK. I know this critical action by the Government leaves many of you and your livelihoods affected and I wanted to tell you that we are following the latest guidance and doing everything we can to keep our school open and working as ‘normally’ as possible.

However to do that and to avoid future bubble closures, we need you to follow these crucial reminders:

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.

If you or anyone in your family has to take a test - all members of the household must also isolate until the result of the test is back. Please keep us updated if you have been for a test and please let us know the confirmed result.

Unfortunately, we are aware of some parents who refuse to take their children for a test despite showing the COVID symptoms. As a school, this is a risk we are not willing to take and we cannot allow children to return to school if we still have concerns about their symptoms in order to protect all the other children and staff from potential contamination. We have been made aware today of a neighbouring school where a parent sent their children into school after the other parent had tested positive. This led to over 80 children being sent into self-isolation and a potential spreading of the virus to children, families and staff.

If in doubt – please keep your child at home and if symptoms continue – get them tested.

On Friday 6th November nearly 200 pupils and staff will end their self-isolation period of 14 days and we will warmly welcome them back to school on Monday 9th November. We fully expect and are prepared for more positive cases in school over the coming weeks and we will work closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority to follow their advice and guidance and inform you as soon as possible.

PHE have asked me to remind you that if you are or your child is self-isolating you MUST not leave the house. I know this may bring challenges to the school run if you have other children in other year groups and please contact us if that is the case. Self-isolating children should not be leaving the house and certainly should **NOT** be on the school site.

Children who are extremely vulnerable – We have been informed by the DFE today that: evidence shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. We will make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home if they have to shield.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.

Wearing Face Coverings in Primary Schools – the DFE advice today states that in primary schools and education settings teaching year 6 and below, there is no change to the existing position. It is not mandatory for children, staff and visitors to wear face coverings. In situations where social distancing between adults in settings is not possible settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors.

I thank you all again for your support in wearing face coverings whilst on site following the advice from the Director of Public Health. Whilst we are aware some of you have expressed concerns, I am sure you understand the reasoning behind this is that we are following the guidance we have been given.

We have been over-whelmed by comments from so many of you who have been really reassured by these arrangements.

Thank you, as always, for your incredible support. We know this new Lockdown will bring increasing challenges and anxiety for all of us. We are doing all that we can, following every bit of guidance we have, to keep you, your children and our staff as safe as possible.

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 continue to get through these challenging times by supporting, communicating and working together to keep everyone safe and well.

Take care and have a safe Bonfire night,

Mr Gamble