

HIGHFIELD COVID UPDATE Wednesday September 16th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have several children having tests this week due to them having one of the symptoms below. I appreciate your vigilance as parents.

- High temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on the chest or back. You don't need to measure your temperature. • New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to the sense of smell or taste (anosmia) – this means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

It is essential that all members of the school community engage fully with the NHS Test and Trace process. Please keep school informed of your test date and of course your test result.

- Parents must book a test if their child is showing symptoms testing and tracing coronavirus website. NHS 119.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

- School and parents must provide details of close contacts should the test be positive or asked by NHS Test and Trace. If the child tests positive they should continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of smell and taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. If they still have a high temperature they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of the household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

Should there be a case of Coronavirus in school two letters will be sent home. One will be to the bubble affected explaining the quarantine period. The other will be to the rest of the school explaining that they are unaffected and should continue attending as normal.

Remote Learning Plans

Together with my newsletter today I am sending you a copy of our plans for remote learning should your child's class/year group bubble have to close for a 14 day quarantine period. **Please read the plan very carefully.** The staff are preparing for this eventuality and will endeavor to provide your child with some live lessons using Microsoft Teams as well as using the very successful Seesaw platform. We are training for this type of learning this half term and if your bubble closes down in the immediate future the teachers will try their very best but as it is a very new way of teaching I am sure you will understand if things are not perfect at first. Should any individual children have to quarantine for the 14 day period the teacher will set work on Seesaw for them to do. The teachers will be uploading some work onto Seesaw for children who are waiting for tests and test results.

Parents Evening Consultations

In July I had hoped the COVID numbers would continue to be decrease and that we could invite parents into school to meet with their children's teachers this term. As the situation has now changed and the country enters a new spike in cases I have decided to hold our Parent Consultation meetings on line using Microsoft Teams. You will be able to book an appointment to meet with your child's teacher using the usual parent mail system. The parent mail appointment booking window will be live from 30th September until 7th October. Once the booking window has closed your child's class teacher will then send you an email invitation to join them in a Microsoft Teams meeting on the day and time you have requested. The dates for meetings will be 21st October 3.45 – 6 p.m. 22nd October 3.45 – 7 p.m. and Monday 2nd November 9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m. I urge you to book a time slot to attend these very important meetings.

It is vital that we have a correct primary contact e-mail address for you. Please complete the Parent Mail e-mail update form that the office is sending out to you today. If we do not have a correct e-mail for you we will not be able to invite you to your child's parents evening meeting or your child to their live lockdown lessons.

Please keep following the rules which help to keep Highfield children, Parents and staff safe.

Julie Colley

