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Thursday, 5 November 2020

COVID-19 Coronavirus update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a four-week national lockdown on Saturday, and the subsequent backing by the MP vote yesterday, we are writing to provide you with an update to our plans.

As has been well documented, schools will remain open to all pupils during the national lockdown in place from 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020 (inclusive). Late yesterday afternoon, the DfE published [guidance](#) for schools regarding the national restrictions. The main summary points for you to be aware of include:

Dates

- These changes take effect from today - 5th November 2020

Clinically extremely vulnerable - children

- Children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. The DfE have stated that most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable are no longer identified as such. *Mrs Butler has contacted each child's family and where necessary, appropriate arrangements for remote education are being made*
- *Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.*

Clinically extremely vulnerable – staff

- Individuals who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are advised to work from home and not to go into work. Individuals in this group will have been identified through a letter from the NHS or from their GP.
- All other staff should continue to attend work, including those living in a household with someone who is CVE.

Clinically vulnerable staff and children

- Staff and children who are clinically vulnerable (CV) or have underlying health conditions but are not CVE, may continue to attend school in line with current guidance. *Headteachers are in the process of reviewing the individual risk assessments of any CV staff to see if there are any further measures that could be put into place to further reduce the risks they face. We all share a responsibility in ensuring we protect our school colleagues and we ask that you follow even more closely, the distancing measures that have been in place since the start of term.*

Out-of-school activities

- Out-of-school activities (including wraparound childcare) may continue if their primary purpose is providing childcare in order to enable parents to work, search for work or undertake training/education. *We continue to offer before and afterschool clubs. Children from different bubbles are separated and social distancing and increased cleaning expectations are followed*

Face Coverings

- In primary schools and education settings teaching Year 6 and below, there is no change to the existing position. *As has been the case throughout, all Inclusive Multi Academy Trust staff have the right to wear a face mask and PPE should they wish to at any point. Additionally, we are now asking that parents/carers on*

Happy children lean, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community



the school site (and ideally, whilst standing in line outside of the school gates) to wear a face covering. However, face masks for staff at the school gate and classroom doors will not be mandatory but may be worn.

Music, dance & drama

- Music, dance and drama can be undertaken in school so long as safety precautions are undertaken. Advice is provided in the [full opening guidance for schools](#). *There are no changes for us. Current practice already complies with the guidelines.*

Sport

- Schools are able to work with external coaches, clubs and organisations for curricular activities where they are satisfied that it is safe to do so. *We will continue to work with our partners to deliver our provision.*

Test and trace

- Parents and staff are encouraged to download the NHS Test and Trace app.
- Individuals who test positive are encouraged to report on the NHS Test and Trace app.
- Parents and staff are informed that, if they receive notification via the NHS Test and Trace app that they have been in close contact with a positive case, they must inform the school immediately. *If a parent or member of staff receives notification via the test and trace app, the headteacher will consider the action that needs to be taken to ensure the safety of the staff member and the continuity of education for pupils.*

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) 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 3 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.

We know that you have heard this many times now but should you suffer from any of the above, please inform your headteacher, get a test and stay at home until you get your result.

We know that another lockdown is a challenge for everyone but by continuing to work as a community, we will be able to get through this tricky period together. Please remember that vulnerable staff and children will be working in school, so it is critical that we all do our bit and follow the rules to support their health.

Thank you all, stay safe.

Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School
James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School

“Inspiring and nurturing our children and their community to be the very best they can be!”

