

**Headteacher**

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Beechfield School

Thursday, 10 December 2020

Dear Parents,

I know that many of you are concerned because we have Year 1, myself and the office staff self-isolating. I want to reassure you that I have taken all the necessary steps to keep the school community safe.

Following the positive result in Year 1 last week, mine on Monday and one of the office staff on Tuesday I re-contacted the dedicated helpline introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The team talked with the infection control nurse who concluded that these are 'controlled outbreaks' at Beechfield because they affect two bubbles in the school – the office and Year 1 - and both of these bubbles are self-isolating.

Some parents have contacted school to ask if we can close before Christmas. I am unable to take the decision to close the school. The Government has given clear guidance that it expects all schools to stay open next week so there is no detrimental impact to children's education. Therefore, the school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well (have no symptoms).

At very short notice, the Government did give permission for schools to swap their INSET day in January so they could close on Thursday 17th December. This was so that the schools would not have to track and trace pupils and families until Christmas Eve, they could do this until 23rd December instead. Having planned our INSET days well in advance, swapping one at this late stage would mean unnecessary disruption for staff and parents.

Our last day will be **Friday 18th December**. These are the staggered collection times that were sent out earlier in the week.

- 1.40pm - Y1
- 1.45pm - Y2
- 1.50pm - Y5 and Y6
- 1.50pm - Reception and Nursery
- 2.00pm - Y3 and Y4

We need to continue to follow the guidance to keep our school community as safe as we can. Thank you for adhering to the one-way system around school and the staggered drop off times. Please follow the guidance about wearing masks and social distancing to keep yourself and others safe. Please leave school grounds as soon as you have dropped off or collected your children.

"Be Kind, Work Hard, Love Learning"

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 afterward
- Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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

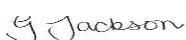
The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- 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.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Jackson
Headteacher

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