

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and staff

Yesterday the government announced that along with London, Essex and other parts of Hertfordshire, Watford will join tier three from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Tier three is deemed as 'very high alert' and is the highest level of alert in the country – full tier three guidance can be found [here](#). Under tier three rules, pubs and restaurants must close, except for takeaway and delivery, and indoor entertainment venues such as theatres, bowling alleys and cinemas must remain shut. Schools will remain open and we write today to remind you of the need to work together to keep each other safe. To help to stop the rise of infection in our community please remember to:

- wear a face covering
- follow the one-way system in place
- keep to one adult dropping children off
- keep children off school if they or anyone in the household has coronavirus symptoms
- inform school of a positive coronavirus test result immediately

Thank you to the majority of parents who are following the rules. There is however a number of parents who are still not doing so, this is unacceptable. Given the growing infection rate, please can we stress that it is our expectation that whilst on school property all visiting adults wear a face covering and follow our one way system.

### Self-isolation period reduced from 14 days to 10 days

After reviewing the evidence, the Department for Health and Social Care has now reduced the number of days that contacts self-isolate from 14 days to 10 days. This change applies to all those who are currently self-isolating including those who commenced self-isolation before Monday when the guidance changed. When self-isolating do not:

- ✘ visit family or friends
- ✘ go to any shops or supermarkets - instead order food online or ask for help
- ✘ go outside to exercise or walk your dog
- ✘ go to work, university, college or school - instead work or study from home if you can
- ✘ use public transport, taxis or share a car
- ✘ attend parties or other events, even if these are outside.

### Free school meal (FSM) vouchers for the Christmas holiday

- Hertfordshire County Council is teaming up with the Family Food Trust, a government backed charity, to help them to deliver food vouchers to children and young people in receipt of free school meals.
- A total of £30 per entitled child will be provided for the Christmas holidays (10 days)
- This support is not available for children entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals, but entitled children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will receive a voucher.
- Vouchers will be emailed to eligible families this week. If you are unable to print your voucher, please contact the school so that we can assist you with this.
- Families who do not qualify for free school meals but are worried about their finances or having enough food this winter can contact HertsHelp, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net), call 0300 123 4044 or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

### Symptoms and when to get tested

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

If you or anyone in your household develops symptoms, arrange for a coronavirus test. This can be done online at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119. If you are not sure if symptoms could be coronavirus, consult the [online NHS symptom checker](#).

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust  
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School

Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree School  
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School

*Happy children learn, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community*



# CORONAVIRUS TIER 3

# VERY HIGH ALERT

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms** so will be spreading the virus without realising. We must all take action to protect each other and our hospital capacity.

<b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b> 	<b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b> 	<b>RETAIL</b> 	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b> 
No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).	Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.	Open.	Everyone who can work from home should do so.
<b>EDUCATION</b> 	<b>INDOOR LEISURE</b> 	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b> 	<b>PERSONAL CARE</b> 
Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.	Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.	Closed (with limited exceptions)	Open.
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b> 	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b> 	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b> 	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b> 
We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.	15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.	Indoor venues closed.	Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.
<b>TRAVELLING</b> 	<b>EXERCISE</b> 	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b> 	<b>LARGE EVENTS</b> 
Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.	Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.	COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).	Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.

For support and more information visit:  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

