

Misson Primary School

You already have your wings, we will help you fly



November 25th 2021

Dear Parents,

We have been advised that there have been some confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the local health protection team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Due to the increased number of cases, and to help keep everybody safe, we have been advised to introduce the following control measures for the next 10 days:

- Y5/6 and Y3/4 will not be mixing at playtimes, or during lunch. Each class will sit on separate tables at lunch, and use different sides of the playground.
- Ventilation will be increased, so please makes sure your child has warm clothing with them in school.
- Renewed focus on hand washing
- Increased cleaning

Unfortunately, we have been told to cancel the disco tonight, and the parent's assembly tomorrow. Baking club will not run this week, and we will let you know if we need to the weeks after that.

Breakfast and after school clubs can continue, but we will be introducing some social distancing between some groups of children

Under new government guidance, children under 18 years and 6 months who are identified as close contacts of a positive case no longer have to self-isolate but are advised to get a PCR test (unless they have tested positive in the last 90 days, or are aged 4 and under, in which case they are only advised to get a PCR test if they live in a household where someone else has coronavirus). NHS Test & Trace is now responsible for all contact tracing, rather than schools and will contact you directly if your child is a close contact. Further guidance is available here: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-tracing-when-you-or-somebody-you-know-has-covid-19)

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well. You do not need to take any action unless contacted by NHS Test & Trace, but adults and secondary school aged children are encouraged to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing [Regular rapid lateral flow coronavirus \(COVID-19\) tests - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). Lateral flow testing is not recommended for primary school aged children.

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.

Public Health are very clear that lateral flow tests (sometimes known as LFT or antigen rapid tests), are not a suitable alternative to PCR tests for children with COVID symptoms, or children who have been close contacts of someone who has a confirmed case of COVID.

The isolation period includes the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if no symptoms), and the next 10 full days.

All other household members who remain well no longer have to self-isolate, as long as they are fully vaccinated (defined as having received the recommended doses of a MHRA-approved vaccination in the UK, with the last dose being at least 14 days before the exposure to COVID-19), medically exempt from vaccination, or aged under 18 years and six months: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

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 afterwards

Further Information

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

I have written this update to inform you of the changing situation with regards to managing Covid-19 within schools. Schools have been advised that it is not necessary to inform parents of every future individual case of Covid-19 which is reported at school. However, please be assured that I am keeping a very close overview of the situation and if cases were to escalate, further controls would be promptly introduced to the school, in liaison with the local health protection team.

Kind regards

John Birch