



COVID-19 Update Special Arrangements

Date: 8th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that your children have settled into the new school year. School is operating differently, but we have tried to ensure that the children and staff are as safe, comfortable and happy as possible. From my own perspective, it has been great to see all the children coming into school in the morning with (mostly) smiling faces!

I am very aware of my responsibility to keep everyone as safe as possible. I could never guarantee 100% safety, but I believe that we have protocols in place which enable us to provide an environment which is as safe as I can make it, whilst allowing us to function as a school.

I have become very familiar with the concept of 'dynamic risk assessment', which basically means that we keep adapting to changing circumstances in order to maintain a high level of safety. There have been some questions and concerns raised, and I would like to address these as best I can here.

School Meals

You will be aware that children are eating in their classrooms. This is to minimise classes sharing tables in the main hall. Whilst we could potentially extend lunchtime to allow for classes to be isolated from each other, and all tables and chairs to be sanitised between sittings, we do not have the time or staffing to facilitate this. Children on school meals are being provided with a 'Grab-Bag' lunch. This is a new menu, and for the first three days (last week) we could not provide a full menu due to supply issues. The menu is now becoming more settled.

I completely understand and agree with parent's concerns around school meals. I have been in discussions with LCC Catering Services to push for a more substantial menu, especially a better 'hot' option which might include potato wedges etc., more fruit and salad options and a generally more balanced offer. This is now gradually being implemented, and the meals offer is improving.

Social Distancing and the 'Bubble Theory'

Our main aim in school is to keep classes as separate from each other as possible. Classes have separate playtimes, separate toilet facilities, and generally do not mix at all during the school day. We cannot control what happens outside school. All we can ask is that parents follow the NHS / PHE advice to social distance and stay as safe as possible. I chose to stagger drop-off and pick-up times alphabetically rather than by class. This is because families with children in different classes would potentially be hanging around for half an hour between class time slots. We want to minimise contact between different families, and so we simply ask that on pick-up and drop-off you keep to the 2 metre distance rule as much as possible and keep moving rather than stopping for any length of time. A bonus of the staggered times is that parking seems to be easier!

Hand washing & Hygiene

Hand washing remains the main way in which to minimise the spread of germs. This was always the case, even before COVID-19. Everyone entering school must wash their hands in the new sink in the entrance hall. Children and staff are washing or sanitising their hands throughout the day. In addition, tables and shared equipment are regularly sanitised, and we have an enhanced cleaning regime which operates before the children arrive and after they have gone home.

Stubbins Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr A J Danson BEd, NPQH

Children with colds and other symptoms.

It is the time of year when we always get a lot of children with colds. There is no 'School Policy' on this – we follow the NHS / PHE advice and refer back to it with each enquiry. As I type, the advice is this:

- Children with a runny nose / sore throat, and nothing else, are not displaying COVID-19 symptoms, and if they feel well enough to come to school, they are welcome.
- Children with sickness / diarrhoea symptoms, and nothing else, should follow the usual advice to **remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea / vomiting**. Although recent reports say that these may be symptoms of COVID-19 in children, there is no advice to treat this any differently because the vast majority of sickness / diarrhoea is simply that.
- **BUT – If your child exhibits any of the following coronavirus symptoms, you MUST follow the advice below.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours**
- **a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal**

What to do if your child has symptoms

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- **Get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible.**
- **Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.**
- **Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get the result.**

IMPORTANT:

Get advice from NHS 111 if you're worried about your child or not sure what to do.

- For children aged 5 or over – use the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#).
- For children under 5 – call 111.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS, YOU MUST INFORM SCHOOL SO THAT WE CAN TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

What if a child tests positive for COVID-19?

In the event that a child has tested positive for COVID-19, we will send a letter to any parents of children who may have been in close contact. The letter will say that your child should self-isolate for 14 days. If they are well at the end of the 14 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities. A negative test does not mean that they can stop self-isolation earlier than 14 days. Other members of their household can continue normal activities provided they do not develop symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14 day self-isolation period.

Yours sincerely,



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