



Wheatcroft Primary School



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COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support during our outbreak to help us in our aim to minimise the spread of COVID-19 within our school community. We are pleased to inform you that following our interventions and with your continued support we have seen a decline in linked cases. In discussions with the COVID response team, we are still classified as a school in an outbreak, however, they have agreed that it is reasonable to begin to move back into wider bubbles. This means that the children will once again mix within their phase teams at play time, lunch time and for phase specific activities.

Due to the continued rise of cases around Hertfordshire, we are approaching this next step cautiously and will still rely on your support in informing us of any symptoms or positive cases within your households. **If your child or any of your family do test positive for COVID-19, we will respect any decision you make to refrain from sending in siblings. If we begin to see a rise in cases then we will again insist that siblings remain at home.** The risk assessments we already have in place will continue in regard to health and safety practices such as hand washing, ventilating all areas, regular cleaning of materials, wearing masks in communal areas and only allowing essential visitors to school. If we identify a number of positive cases within a class then that class will become a separate bubble. If we notice a rise in cases, we will go back to class bubbles and siblings of positive cases will be required to remain at home, this will help minimise the risk of the spread to other bubbles.

Please continue to help us by being extra vigilant in identifying symptoms. The guidance still remains the same around symptomatic children and they should remain at home and a PCR test booked if any of the following apply:

1. A high temperature
2. A new continuous cough
3. A loss or change to sense of smell or taste

Whilst awaiting the result of the test, your child will need to stay at home. If the test is positive, your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days. The rest of the household as close contacts are recommended to take a PCR test. ***Please remember it is essential that you email the test results (positive or negative) to the school as soon as you receive them to support both our monitoring of COVID-19 and our attendance records.***

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus:

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it is hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over).

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We will continue to monitor our cases closely and will inform you if any of our expectations change. Thank you for your continued support and understanding whilst we continue working together to protect all members of our school community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Miller

Headteacher