

Friday 10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for your support as pupils have returned to school in all year groups. The full reopening of school for all pupils has been very successful thus far. The support of parents in dropping pupils off at the school gate has significantly reduced the number of people on the school site helping keep us all safe.

I recognise that staggered starts are inconvenient and to help support parents with the morning drop off and afternoon collection we are offering the opportunity to drop off or collect your children in one visit. If you wish to take advantage of this, please take your child to Mrs Fazal who will be on the KS2 playground door.

At the end of the school day, the number of people on the school playground is inevitably greater as parents and carers come to collect their children. We would encourage parents coming onto the school playground to wear a facemask. It is also important that parents and carers avoid congregating in large groups, or sit too closely on the playground benches. To keep us all safe it is important we all adhere to the two metres social distancing where possible. If parents are waiting in the playground with their children, please ensure they do not play on the nursery playground equipment. The nursery playground gate has been opened between the two playgrounds to allow easier access across the school site.

I am sure you will be aware that some schools in the locality have had to send bubbles of pupils home due to instances of positive cases. If we were to have an instance of a positive case at St Margaret's the protocol would be that all pupils and staff in the affected bubble would be sent home to isolate for fourteen days. I am sure you will have many questions about this scenario, which I will attempt to answer.

If in school there is a positive case will it close for all pupils?

The answer is no. In the event of a positive case, only the bubble where there is a positive case will be required to isolate.

If one of my children is in a bubble that have to isolate do I have to keep all my children off school?

The answer is no. Siblings in other year groups would be able to attend school as long as they do not have any symptoms.

If my child is sent home, can I get them tested for COVID-19 and send them back to school if they test negative?

The answer is no. If your child is in a year group where there is a positive case of COVID-19 they will need to isolate for fourteen days.

How do I get a test for COVID-19?

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Will the school provide remote education if my child has to isolate for fourteen days?

The answer is yes. Over the summer we have been working hard to improve the quality of remote education we can offer in the event of a school closure. If your child is sent home we will be providing remote education and attempting to mirror the quality of education as closely as possible to school. This will involve taught content and feedback for pupils on their work.

I recognise that the rising number of cases will concern parents and I wish to reassure you that school has implemented all the government guidance to keep school COVID-19 secure. In addition to this, we have worked with the health and safety executive to ensure we have all the necessary measures in place.

If you, your child or any member of your household displays any of the symptoms of COVID-19 then your child should not attend school and a test for COVID-19 should be taken.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any questions or concerns regarding pupils returning to school, please do not hesitate to get in touch either by telephoning school or by email.

Yours sincerely,

David Hunter
Acting Headteacher