



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

Inspiring all to live, learn and love in the light of Jesus.

(cf John 8:12)



Tuesday 27th October 2020

Important Information regarding the virus

Dear Parents, Guardians and carers,

It is with heavy heart I have to report that, today, we have been made aware of a member of our school community in our 1W and our year 5 bubbles who have tested positive for COVID 19. As mentioned in my previous HSE communication, we knew this day would come but we do have lots of things in place to stop the virus spreading further, one of which is sending out this letter to let you all know.

The parents of children in the Year 1W and all of Year 5 bubble will need to read their separate letter on what steps they need to take; one being that the 1W bubble and the whole year 5 bubble will need to self-isolate until Sunday 8th November. We have worked closely with Kirklees and Public Health England who have assessed the situation and identified that **no other children have been in contact with the positive case and therefore can carry on as normal**. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and will continue to work closely with Public Health England over the coming couple of weeks and take further actions if we need to.

It is important to note that the person who has tested positive has reported that they are feeling well overall and are not significantly suffering with the illness at this time.

I am writing this letter today as this is a prime opportunity to remind all staff, parents and children that Dewsbury is still a high risk area and as such, we need to all play our part in stopping the spread of this virus in our community. Many schools around us have had positive cases and bubbles have had to close, but it does make it more real when it happens to you for the first time. 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, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

So, what can you do to help keep our school open and protect our community?

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Wear a face covering at pick up and drop off
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough and wash your hands afterwards
- Stay 2m away from all other people apart from your own household (this includes in the lines for pick up and drop off)
- Do not send your child into school if you suspect they may have the virus or if another member of the household is suspected of having the virus. Signs to watch out for are - they have a very high temperature, a persistent cough or have a change to their sense of smell or taste.
- And remember....

HANDS, FACE, 2m SPACE

All these measures will help protect our whole community and hopefully allow us to stay fully open.

'An outstanding school, which is deeply committed to the Catholic mission... this school inspires all within this faith community to live life to the full.' Ofsted 2017

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Frequently asked questions:

Can my child wear a face covering in school?

As a School we have chosen to allow anyone, including children, to wear a face covering while at school if they choose – so to answer a common question from parents – yes you are allowed to send your child into school with a face covering if you want to (please make sure you also provide a plastic bag for the child to keep it in when they are not wearing it and teach them to put it on and take it off by using the straps).

Should my child attend school?

The school will re-open on 2nd November and your child should attend as normal if they are well enough and if they are not in the Year 5 or 1W bubble. The same rules apply as normal e.g. if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should remain off school for 48 hours from their last episode etc. If you are unsure, please contact Mrs watt or Mrs Massey in the office and they will talk it through with you. Vulnerable and previously shielding pupils can continue to attend as normal as well.

I will end by saying that I wish every member of our community good health over the coming weeks. Please read the below information from Public Health England carefully so that you know what to do if you or your child develop symptoms.

Stay safe and thank you for your continued support during this difficult time,

Miss Hayes and all the staff at St Paulinus

The following information is from Public Health England.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

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.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

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 does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> 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/>