



St. Paulinus Catholic Primary School

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

(cf John 8:12)



Wednesday 7th October 2020

Important Information

Dear Parents, Guardians and carers,

It is with heavy heart I have to report that we have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19 today.

I want to first of all reassure all parents that, due to their position in school, **there is no need for any child to self-isolate or get a test.** We have worked closely with Kirklees and Public Health England who have assessed the situation and identified that **no child has come into close contact with this person and therefore were not at risk of catching the virus.** Any adult working in school that has been in close contact with the positive case has been asked to self-isolate for 14 days as a precaution so that we break any potential chains and protect the children and remaining staff. 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 that the children are protected in this matter and we want them to feel safe at school; if they ask we will let them know that someone is poorly but that they don't need to worry as that person will be back soon. However, it is unlikely that they will notice any absence given the position that person holds within school.

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, and I am sure it will happen to us at some point but luckily that is not needed today. 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
- 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 1m to 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.

HANDS, FACE, 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 continues to remain open and your child should attend as normal if they are well enough. 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/>