



4.11.21

IMPORTANT UPDATE:

COVID: INFORMATION REGARDING ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

All schools in Co. Durham have been informed by Durham County Council that there has been a large increase in the number of children and young people in the county testing positive for COVID-19 and the highest case rates are in school age children. This is leading to spread of COVID-19 within families and into older age groups.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in children is disrupting their education, affecting schools and is having an impact on the wider community.

Following advice from Durham County Council's Public Health team we will be re-introducing the following measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in school from **MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER**.

These measures are as follows:

- Reintroduce staggered start times (see below)

Year Groups	Start Time
KS1 (Reception, Y1 and Y2 with no brothers or sisters)	8.40am – 9am
Family Groups	9.05am-9.15am
KS2 (Y3,4,5,6 with no brothers or sisters)	9.15-9.25am

- Reintroduce staggered finish times (see below)

Year Group	Time	Place
Reception	2.40pm	Main Office
Y1	2.55pm	Main Office
Y2	3.00pm	Opposite Church
Y3	3.05pm	Opposite Church
Y4	3.10pm	Opposite Church
Y5	3.12pm	Opposite Church
Y6	3.15pm	Opposite Church

- Reintroduce bubbles to reduce mixing – movement between classes will be minimised wherever possible
- Postpone any upcoming educational visits – we will monitor the situation and seek alternative dates where possible
- Please can we strongly advise that parents wear face masks when bringing/collecting the children and social distance where possible – 1 parent only please

Christmas Events

As you know, we have lots of activities planned for the children over the festive period. As a school, we will be looking at ways to make sure that the traditional Christmas fun still happens within the restrictions that, once again, we find ourselves facing. At this point, we need to be prepared that our plans may change, however, as always, we will endeavour to involve you in the celebrations as much as we can. Please bear with us whilst we monitor the situation - further information will be sent as soon as possible.

Testing: Please continue to follow the guidelines for testing

- PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in their household*
- Daily LFT testing at home for 7 days for any adult or pupil in key stage 2 (year 3 or above) who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. The testing of primary age pupils is at parental discretion. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive*
- Additional attention will be given to ventilation, cleaning and respiratory and hand hygiene

*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

LFD Testing advice

We would recommend you have a supply of LFD testing kits at home in the event you are requested to use them. You can order home testing kits to be delivered to your home here www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or you can collect LFD kits at Community Collect sites across the County. To find your nearest collection point please enter your post code here maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

If you pick up tests from a pharmacy, you may be asked for a 'collect code' this helps the NHS match your details to the tests. To get a 'collect code' please visit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits

Please register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test . If positive, your child should isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

You must always register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result Help, support, and further information.

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

Our children have been amazing throughout the pandemic and I'm sure they will rise to the occasion once again!

Finally, we would like to thank you for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe.