



Dear Parents and Carers

7 December 2020

We have been advised by Public Health England that it is highly likely we have a positive case of COVID-19 within the Year 7 and Year 9 groups at the school.

We have followed the national guidance and on the recommendation of Public Health England have requested that all Year 7 and Year 9 students self-isolate for 14 days.

We will continue to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority. Due to the measures the school has taken since the start of term to minimise the risk of COVID-19 the school will remain open to students in Year 8, 10 and 11. **Providing your child is well and does not develop the symptoms of COVID-19, they can continue to attend school as normal.**

Whilst I fully understand this will cause anxiety amongst the school community, I can assure you all necessary steps are being taken to minimise risk to others. The school has again be deep cleaned tonight and we will continue to follow our procedures to minimise contacts between different year groups within school. Our procedures have been discussed with Public Health England and the Local Authority, as part of the rapid risk assessment that schools must undertake, and they are satisfied with the measures we have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading. These cases are believed to be a sporadic case in one family in the same locality and the source of the case is not linked to St Dunstan's School.

Please can we remind you – you should not arrange for a test unless your child or a member of the household develops symptoms.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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'.

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 to we recommend that you 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



Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

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

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> 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/>

I understand the concern this information will cause and I once again stress the importance of parents following the guidance set out by the government. Students who are symptomatic or awaiting test results must self-isolate and not be sent to school. Please could I also ask that you reinforce with your children the importance of acting responsibly when in school and when travelling to and from school, socially distancing themselves when possible and avoiding contact with each other at all times.

Thank you all for your cooperation and understanding in these most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely

Keith Howard
Headteacher



St Dunstan's School

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