



2nd February 2021

Dear Parents and carers

We have been advised that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support you. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The small number people who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have been informed that they must stay home and isolate.

Unfortunately the school administration team including senior managers have to isolate.

In line with public health guidance, our school risk assessment and contingency planning (please see below), **we regret that it is necessary to close the school to the pupils from Wednesday 3rd February to Friday 5th February. School will commence on Monday 8th February 2021.**

We recognise and regret the difficulty this will cause, thank you for your understanding in this matter and look forward to reopening to all pupils next week.

Yours Sincerely

Liz Nolan

Head Teacher
Haymerle School

Additional Guidance: Please see below regarding guidance about the schools contingency planning and risk assessment and the Public Health England guidance regarding COVID -19.

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 10 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 10-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 10 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/>

School Contingency Planning Information

All schools make contingency plans so that we can respond effectively to problems that may impact the day to day work of the school. To be able to function effectively and safely there are number of critical services a school must have in place including

- Appropriate teacher and support staffing levels to meet the needs of our pupils safely and effectively (staff need to have appropriate skills and experience with SEN / ASC pupils to be effective)
- Administration and Senior Leaders on site to be responsible for day to day running of the school, to provide leadership and manage critical decisions day to day
- Cleaning and security staff on site
- Kitchen and catering staff on site
- Effective supply of essential resources for the day to day running of the school e.g. ICT, electrical / gas services, catering, cleaning, educational supplies.

If there is a significant or critical loss or failure of any these services, our capacity to operate safely is compromised and may result in a complete or partially closure of the school.

COVID Management Planning in Spring 2021

In light of a further lockdown across the country and increasing infection rates across London and Southwark, an essential part of our duty of care to pupils and our work colleagues has been to review the schools capacity to function safely in line with our critical business management plans and COVID 19 management plans and risk assessments.

In line with Public Health guidance we are required to close individual classes or social bubbles if there is a confirmed positive COVID 19 case. We ask that parents / carers are mindful of our duty of care and legal duty in this matter.

Where the capacity of a class team is compromised due to staff absence we will take necessary steps to manage this safely by moving pupils in the affected class to remote learning until staffing levels are restored.

We believe this is the safest strategy for pupils and staff securing the social bubbles within the school community.

Keeping in Touch

We work hard to maintain open and regular communication with parents.

Up to date information is shared on the school website since the start of term regarding the school offer and capacity to support pupils both in school and remotely. Admin staff and teachers send information via email and have been making calls home to engage with families directly. **Please check for emails (including your Junk emails – just in case) and answerphone messages for information and updates.**

If you have not received any communication or messages please contact us at school as we may need to update your contact information.

If a class or school social bubble needs to be closed for the reasons noted above, school staff will communicate at least weekly while school is only able to offer remote learning support.

Working Together

As a staff team and school community we are thinking about friends, family and colleagues who may be recovering from illness, caring for others, shielding or managing childcare responsibilities. These are difficult and worrying times.

I am aware that parents / carers will be deciding what is best for their child. We understand families have difficult decisions to make and encourage you to discuss concerns with school staff who will be able to support you.

Thank you to the many parents for your kindness and good wishes particularly recognising the hard work of the school staff at this challenging time. I know that every member of the Haymerle Staff team is committed to securing the best outcomes for each of our pupils.