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25th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Advice to All Parents/Carers

I am writing to inform you that we have had a small number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the school. The children or staff who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed cases will have received an individual letter and will be staying at home for 14 days.

As you will know, we are working closely with Public Health England and following the national guidance. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and take appropriate action.

The action we are taking includes:

- use of facemasks in communal areas
- increased cleaning
- increased emphasis on social distancing in classrooms and throughout the school (in assemblies, corridors and canteen)
- increased use of hand sanitiser
- enhanced guidance for staff
- classroom reorganisation of classrooms with clear floor markings
- staggered beginning and end of the school day and lessons
- following Department for Education guidance to the letter

Full reopening

As you will know from my previous letters, Year 10 will be returning to school tomorrow, Thursday 26th November (except self-isolatees) and Year 8 will be returning to school on Monday 30th November (except self-isolatees). Enhanced guidance to staff should mean that no further members of staff will need to self-isolate, which means that there should be no further partial closures. Students in all years who are self isolating should return to school on the date indicated on their individual letter.

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 (or 111 for children under the age of 5). If your child does test positive for Covid-19, you must inform the school.

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. Exercise should only be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping, picking up medication or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication either online or by phone.

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 can, 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

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>

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)

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

- 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 would like to conclude by reassuring you that we are working very hard to ensure the best possible provision for all of our students and thank you for your ongoing support at this difficult time.

If you have any questions or queries, please do contact me on

nsmith@southborough.kingston.sch.uk .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niall Smith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Niall Smith

Headteacher