

# ELVINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

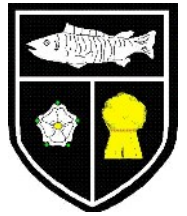
*'Working Together We Can All Achieve Success'*

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Headteacher – Mr. Andrew Buttery BA (HONS), PGCE, NPQH



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## COVID-19

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unfortunately I am writing to you to inform you that we have an additional confirmed case of COVID-19 in school; we are also awaiting the results of a number of PCR tests.

As you are already aware, we implemented Stage 1 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November; we appreciate your continued support with this.

I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that in the majority of confirmed cases, linked to our school, the children have not initially displayed the main symptoms associated with COVID-19. Positive cases (as confirmed by a PCR test) have included children displaying a combination of the following:

- nasal congestion or runny nose,
- sore throat,
- diarrhoea and vomiting (feeling nauseous),
- stomach pain,
- headache,
- Muscle ache (myalgia).

**At this time we have not reached the threshold to implement Stage 2 (as detailed below).** However, we are continuing to monitor the situation and will remain in close communication with Public Health England and the DfE. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

### **Stage 2 – confirmed cases reach 10% (either within a class or across the school)**

- **At the start of the day** – Parents/carers instructed to line up using marked dividers on pavement at Elvington Lane entrance, in allotted time slot for child's year group. Children to be handed over at the school gate to a member of staff. Parents/carers not permitted on school site and only allowed in school building when strictly necessary, by appointment.
- **At the end of the day** - Parents/carers advised to arrive at earliest possible listed time for child's year group. They should line up on the pavement outside school, respecting social distancing measures. Their child will be returned to them when they reach the front of the parent/carer line.
- The children's classrooms will be arranged differently. This will result in pupils sitting side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on.
- Class sized bubbles will be implemented and will stay together for all activities - separate from other class bubbles.
- Staggered break times (including lunch), so that all children are not moving around the school at the same time.

“I have come in order that you may have life – life in all its fullness.” John 10:10

- Whole-school Collective Worship and Sharing Assemblies will not take place in the hall. Collective Worship and the sharing of certificates will still take place in class bubbles via Google Meet.
- Walky-talkies will be used by the staff to facilitate communication and ensure there are no conflicting movement of groups.
- PE kits will come into school on a Monday and return home on a Friday. Reading books will be provided once a week (on a Monday), and should be returned on a Friday. This will allow 48 hours before the books are passed onto another child.
- School trips (including residential) will not take place.
- The school will work closely with the local health protection team (HPT) and implement provisions as advised by the team.

### PTA Film Night

Unfortunately, despite the COVID-19 mitigations that were due to be implemented, next Friday's PTA film night will be postponed until further notice.

### Test and Trace

From 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children's parents/carers will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

### Testing

Pupils who have had a PCR test cannot return to school until they have a negative test result or have completed the required isolation time. **Please note that a rapid-result lateral flow device (LFD) test will not be accepted, as these are not recommended for primary age pupils.**

### Symptoms

The main symptoms of COVID-19 in children are:

- a high temperature,
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours,
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

While it does seem like children can get a wider range of coronavirus symptoms than adults, these symptoms may also be a sign of another infection or illness entirely. It is important not to miss the signs of another serious illness.

I realise that this news could be unsettling, however, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to do all we can to keep the school community as safe as possible. Thank you once again for your continued support...

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Andrew Buttery