



Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery

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18th November 2020

Dear Families

Following several phone calls and emails to the school office, I appreciate that many of you are feeling anxious and concerned about the rise in coronavirus cases in the local area.

I would like to reassure you that Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery **have not** yet had a positive COVID-19 test for either a member of staff or child in our school community. We are continuing to follow all the guidance provided by the Department for Education, NHS and Public Health England. We receive regular updates to the guidance and implement any changes necessary as we are made aware of them.

During the current National Restrictions to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the government decision is that schools will remain open during this time and that **children should continue to attend school** to support both their wellbeing and their education. It remains a statutory requirement for education to be accessed and our usual absence policy and procedures will be followed.

"It remains very important for children and young people to attend (school) to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advised that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school."

We have a range of protective measures in place in school to help to keep our children and staff safe. You can also contribute to keeping our school community safe by adhering to the following:

- Only **one** adult to bring or collect a child to reduce the number of adults around the school site.
- Follow **social distancing rules** – there are markings to support your safety at entry and exit points.
- Wear a **face mask** when you are in the location of the school for drop off or collection.
- If you are coming onto the school site or into the school building you **must wear a face covering**.
- Addressing any questions or queries, as far as possible remotely through your child's contact book, by telephoning the school office or via an email.
- Not sending your child in to school if they develop any of the COVID-19 symptoms (see below).

Please **ensure** that you inform the school office **immediately** if your **child has a positive COVID-19 test result**. During the week (Monday to Friday) you should phone the school office on 01227 372245.

At the weekend (Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday) you should either text or call 07726 603447.

If your child does have to self-isolate, you will find remote home learning on our school website.

Below is a reminder about coronavirus symptoms and the actions that must be taken if you or your child present with symptoms.

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.

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'. Further information is available at:

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

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.

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.

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.

We are doing our absolute best to manage the impact of COVID-19 on our school community. If you have any concerns, please can I ask that you address these concerns with school directly rather than sharing these concerns with others through conversations or on social media. This only raises concerns and anxiety for others.

Thank you all for your continued support, patience and understanding.

Kind regards



Helen Day

Acting Headteacher.

