

**Headteacher**

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Cherry Tree Primary School

Friday, 11 September 2020

Covid-19 Update

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to try and clarify when and when not to send your child into school due to illness and to give you an update on our measures in response to the current situation with coronavirus.

This week, the Prime Minister announced a tightening of measures following the increase of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases across the country. Mr Johnson set out a new "rule of six", [restricting gatherings to a maximum of six people](#). The new rules are:

- Social gatherings of more than six people in England will not be allowed in law from Monday 14 September
- The new rule applies to people in private homes, indoors and outdoors, and places such as pubs, restaurants, cafes and public outdoor spaces
- It applies to all ages
- The rule does not apply to schools and workplaces, or weddings, funerals and organised team sports
- People who ignore police could be fined £100 - doubling with each offence to a maximum of £3,200

Whilst these restrictions do not apply to schools, it has prompted us to review our plans in order to limit further any potential spread of coronavirus. Currently, bubbles consist of two year groups (120 children). We believe that this is too many and from Monday 14th September, will reduce this to bubbles of individual year groups (60 children). This means that your children, where at all possible, will only have contact with the other children in their year group. To implement this, **changes** will need to be made to the following:

- **Lunchtimes** – Children will be eating in their year group bubbles and will be kept at least 2m from any children in a different bubble.
- **After school clubs** – These will take place in year groups. Communication will be sent to you about this separately. We apologise for the short notice in changing these and appreciate this will inconvenience parents but we must react to the guidance from the government in order to keep our whole school community safe.
- **Start and pick up times** – We are going to provide you with a window between **8:45 and 9:00**. You may drop your child at any time in this window. Lessons will begin at 9:00. Please do not stay on the playground, please drop your children and leave the premises. The school day will end at 3:15pm, this is when lessons will end however, you may collect your children between **3:15 and 3:30pm**. We hope for this to reduce the amount of parents waiting on site at any one time.

These times apply for all pupils Reception – Year 6	
Start Times	Finish Times
8:45am – 9:00am	3:15pm – 3:30pm

The threat of coronavirus is a shared problem for us all, as a result we must support one another and look to each other to control infections. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who are working with us to keep our children and school staff safe. We know that the constant changes to the plans are frustrating but your positive community spirit has made the return to school successful. As it stands, we have no positive cases of coronavirus at Cherry Tree nor across our trust and whilst we hope this continues, the rise in numbers shared by the government indicates that we must all work together to keep each other safe, no matter how inconvenient.

"Learning Together, Learning For Life"

What do you do if you suspect your child is ill?

Now that the school is back together and with autumn upon us, we do expect an increase in colds and other illnesses at this time of year. This obviously makes it difficult to distinguish between those common illnesses and coronavirus, and whether or not to keep your child off and/or take your child for a test. We understand that you will want to remain as safe as possible, and our overriding message is of course one of caution. However, by reading the information below, it might help to inform your decision about sending your child into school, and whether or not to arrange a test. This is a joint responsibility and we rely on your awareness and cooperation.

Here is a summary of what you need to know and a flow chart is attached on the final page to help you make your decision quickly and accurately:

STEP 1: Check for symptoms of coronavirus (there may be one or more symptoms)

- A high temperature
- A new cough where you keep on coughing. This means coughing a lot for more than an hour or three or more episodes of coughing in a day
- Losing, or there being a change to, your sense of smell or taste

STEP 2: Check with the NHS 111 service

To receive medical advice about your symptoms, use the NHS 111 online service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> or NHS 111 phone line.

STEP 3: Phone your GP

Phone your GP to arrange a phone or video call to discuss your child's symptoms.

STEP 4: Arrange a possible test

To arrange a test for your child, call 119. They will run through a series of questions to ascertain whether or not your child needs to be tested. There are a high volumes of calls at the moment so you will need to be persistent and possibly prepared to travel in order to receive the test. However, it is essential that your child/you are tested.

Finally, I hope that the suggested steps above will help you over the coming weeks. If your child is too unwell to come to school with an illness that is not related to the coronavirus, please keep them off for at least 24 hours until they are well enough to return. If you wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please speak to a member of the school office team.

Warm regards,

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

