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Friday, 28 May 2021

HALF TERM COVID19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't thank you enough for your support over the last week. The situation has been unsettling and a reminder to all that this pandemic is not yet over. Whilst restrictions have been relaxed, it is critically important that we continue to be vigilant and continue to keep one another safe. It is clear however, just how strong our Cherry Tree community is, and I am very proud of our fabulous children who make it all worthwhile. Thank you.

As you are aware, we have seen a number of cases spread quickly through one class in our school and occasional cases in other year groups which have been linked to siblings. Our infection control measures are strong, ensuring that the virus has not been able to travel outside of this. That said, I have taken the decision next half term to reduce our bubbles back to just one year group as a precaution.

Returning after the holidays

We plan to welcome all classes back to face to face learning on Monday 7th June. If you have been asked to isolate beyond this date, please continue to do so. As well, if their 10 days of isolation have ended but they are still experiencing symptoms or seem unwell, please continue their isolation. Please do not send your children in to school if they are displaying symptoms or if they are unwell. A number of our cases followed a similar pattern of tummy aches and runny noses – not your usual COVID19 symptoms so please keep an eye out for this. As parents, please test yourselves using an LFT prior to your children coming back to school.

Isolation

Please remember that if your child has been instructed to isolate, they must stay at home for the duration of their isolation. A summary of the isolation dates are found below. A negative LFT or PCR test does not end isolation as the children may still be carrying the virus, they must complete the full 10 days. If you are an adult, you must also isolate if you are a close contact. I would also like to remind you that if you have had your vaccination, you must still isolate as the vaccination does not give you full immunity – just a useful layer of body armour!

Summary of isolation dates by year group (please note, if your child has developed symptoms themselves or been in contact with someone in the family testing positive for coronavirus or have tested positive for coronavirus themselves, then their isolation would be extended beyond these dates):

	Last day of isolation
PM/30h Nursery and Reception	Thursday 3 rd June
Year 2	Tuesday 1 st June
Year 3	Tuesday 1 st June
Year 5	Thursday 3 rd June
Year 6	Thursday 3 rd June

"Learning together, learning for life!"

Testing

If you or anyone in your household, has been identified as a close contact, you are eligible for a PCR test. I would like to urge you to take these tests. You can book these here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
Adults have full access to LFT tests. I would like you to consider testing yourself regularly using these to help quickly identify the virus. These are not required for primary aged pupils but could be used under careful supervision. These can be ordered online for free using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
The best way of assessment for our pupils however are the PCR tests.

Reporting positive results over the holidays

Over the half term, we ask that you continue to report any positive cases to the school. Please email me on head@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk to report a confirmed case across the break.

Travelling within the UK

If you are not isolating, and you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential. You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

Travelling internationally

There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to [countries or territories on the red or amber lists](#). If you do need to travel to an Amber destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and;

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return
- Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period

The school will not authorise any absence for travel including time needed to quarantine.

Support for families

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

Once again, please keep yourselves and our community safe.

We look forward to seeing you again for our last half term of the year. A big well done again to our resilient children, we really are proud of them!

Yours Sincerely

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

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