

**Headteacher**

Cheska Tyler

Email

admin@cherrytree.herts.sch.uk

Tel

01923 245490

Twitter

@CTS_Watford

Address

Berry Avenue
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD24 6ST

Web

www.cherrytree.herts.sch.uk

Facebook

Cherry Tree Primary School

Tuesday, 6 October 2020

Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

Dear Parents,

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19.

We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

The school contacted the dedicated helpline introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The helpline's team supported us to conduct a rapid investigation to confirm who the individual was in close contact with during the period they were infectious and to ensure that these individuals were asked to self-isolate.

This helpline provided us with definitive advice on which individuals need to self-isolate due to close contact. **All year 6 pupils and staff members have been identified as close contacts** and therefore are advised to self-isolate for 14 days. At this time, other members of the household are not required to self-isolate. This means that adults in the household may continue to go to work and your child's siblings must come to school. If, however, your child develops symptoms, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms began, and the other members of your household for 14 days from this day.

If your child is in Year 6, they will need to self-isolate. You will have been contacted directly via text message and email – **if you have not been contacted, you do not need to take any action at this point** unless your child subsequently develops symptoms.

Public Health England have confirmed that the school should remain open and **all other children should continue to attend as normal** if they remain well even if they have siblings in Year 6.

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-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

"Learning Together, Learning For Life"

- 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
- If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online
- 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, 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

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.

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

Do

- 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/>

Yours sincerely

Cheska Tyler
Headteacher

“Learning Together, Learning For Life”

INCLUSIVE | MAT