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Tuesday, 23 September 2020

## COVID-19 Coronavirus update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the Prime Minister once again announced a tightening of measures following the increase of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases across the country. The Prime Minister emphasised in his statement that the education, health and well-being of young people remains a priority and that schools will remain open and will not be impacted by these new restrictions. However, their introduction highlights the seriousness in which we all need to take the current situation. Mr Johnson said the following new measures are likely to stay in place for at least the next six months. [The full statement is available here.](#)

We have again taken this opportunity to review our in-school plans and although we are currently following the Department for Education guidance, we feel that the following additional measures could further support social distancing in our schools. We will be introducing the following measures with immediate effect:

- Staff working in the lunch hall will wear PPE for the duration of the service
- Further reduce, **where practical**, SLT/Premises Manager/HLTAs/SEN TAs/Sports Coach work with children across different bubbles
- Strict limit of one parent/guardian to pick up/drop off to reduce the volume of people on site
- Parents to take bikes/scooters home rather than leaving them at school
- Further reduction of staff to staff contact time - Staff meetings held in the hall, outside or remotely
- Reduction in cross school experiences – Central trust staff to limit work to one single school per week

Additionally, we are giving further thought and discussion to the possible introduction of the following:

- Asking parents and older secondary school age children to wear face masks when on the school site for drop off and pick up
- Additional communication/signage outside and around the school grounds to promote social distancing/personal hygiene

As it stands, we have a number of families following the government rules and isolating as a result of possible coronavirus symptoms. It is everyone's shared responsibility to follow these simple rules, no matter how inconvenient they are. If you choose to ignore them and send your infectious child into school, there could be serious health ramifications for the whole school community.

Please remember that you must isolate and seek a test if your child or anyone in your household displays one or more of the following 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

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*"Happy children learn, happy staff thrive, happy parents build a community"*

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To arrange a test, visit <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name> or call 119. They will run through a series of questions to ascertain whether your child needs to be tested. There are a high volume of calls at the moment so you will need to be persistent and possibly prepared to travel or wait in order to receive the test. However, it is essential that your child/household member is tested before you can send your child back to school.

At this time of year, many people experience illness including colds and sniffles. Colds, flu and COVID-19 are caused by different viruses but can have similar symptoms. It can be hard to judge which one you may have. You may find the following link useful. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

Finally, can we please ask that you follow social distancing measures when you leave the school premises. Sadly, we have observed a small minority of parents mixing closely, hugging, hand shaking and even kissing when they greet or say goodbye to other parents. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours Sincerely

James Roach – CEO, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust  
Gillian Jackson – Headteacher, Beechfield School  
Cheska Tyler – Headteacher, Cherry Tree Primary School  
Sebastian Gray – Headteacher, Laurance Haines School

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