

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the email correspondence yesterday I have now had to make the very difficult decision to close the school. This will take effect from **Friday 20th November (tomorrow) until Friday 27th November inclusive. All pupils will return to school on Monday 30th November.**

In order to ensure that the children's education is as full as possible, and as per the Government's previous guidance on school re-openings, staff at Shorne can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Unfortunately, despite following this guidance and the school's own risk assessment, a further member of staff who carries out a cross-bubble role has tested positive for COVID-19.

Having followed national guidance, we cannot be certain whether your child has or has not had contact with the member of staff. The definition of what constitutes 'contact' is constantly being updated (and is retrospective in effect) and this now can be something as little as a face-to-face conversation, closer than 1 metre, for any length of time (no matter how short). As such, we are required to notify you that all children will be required to self-isolate.

Therefore, and in line with the national guidance, your child must stay at home and self-isolate until Friday 27th November (inclusive). The individual who has tested positive has not been in school since Friday 13th November, so the 14-day isolation period starts from that date.

If your child is well at the end of the 14-day period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14-day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to: Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection who do not live with the person

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Alongside this, we have now reached a point where the restrictions on staff availability in the school are such that remote learning will prove most effective for the very short term. We know that you may find this concerning but want to assure you that we are continuing to monitor the situation and work closely with Public Health England, the DfE and the Trust.

Online Learning

Parents have already received detailed instructions on how to access the remote learning provision, Google Classrooms. Should you have any questions do please get in touch with your child's class teacher, in the first instance, via Classdojo. If your child is ill, and unable to

complete their online learning, please inform the school office (as you would if we were in school).

We do appreciate that none of this will be welcome news and apologise for the disruption this will inevitably cause. Please be assured that this is not a decision taken lightly, but one that I believe is necessary given the unprecedented circumstances we are facing.

For your information, please see below the general guidance issued for all parents by Public Health England. We would ask all parents to make themselves familiar with this guidance so that we can reduce the risk of such an incident occurring again.

Yours faithfully,

Miss T Hewett

Head of School

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>

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/>