



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Interim Head of School: Mrs Alice Shaw

Interim Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

11th December, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to every member of the school community for being so supportive during this challenging time. This has not been easy for any of us. Closing the school just before Christmas and all the festive fun that was due to take place feels like a terribly flat ending to what had been a productive and successful school term.

Over the course of the week, we have had 7 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the school, this includes pupils and staff. Several parents have also tested positive. I am sure that you will join me in sending thoughts and prayers to all who are suffering with the virus. I wish them all a safe recovery.

In addition to the confirmed cases, there are many other members of the school who are self-isolating:

- Children who eat school lunch
- Year 1
- Year 5
- Some children from Year 2
- Sixteen members of staff (catering staff, class teachers, teaching assistants and admin staff).

With the support of Public Health England and Islington Local Authority, we have completed an in-depth assessment of the events that led to the school closure. The protective measures that we have in place at school are robust and, until now, have protected us from a widespread Covid outbreak since the pandemic began in March. We have identified further, stricter measures that we can put in place in the lunch hall from January to prevent this situation from occurring again.

Children or staff who developed symptoms over the last week and until Thursday 10th December: the school is required to engage in the track in trace system whenever we receive notification of a new case of Covid-19 in the school, either pupil or staff. This process involves us completing a new risk assessment for each new case, identifying exposure areas during the infectious period, and identifying contacts.

The infectious period of any confirmed case of Covid-19 is two days (48 hours) prior to the onset of symptoms.





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Children or staff who develop symptoms from Friday 11th December and onwards: the school has now been closed for over two days (over 48 hours) therefore pupils or staff who develop symptoms of Covid-19 from today onwards will **not** be considered infectious when they were last at school. This means that school will not be completing risk assessments for any new cases of Covid-19 where symptoms developed today (Friday) or in the future.

However, there are still children and staff who developed symptoms over the last week and until Thursday 10th December that are still awaiting test results. If any of these tests come back as positive, the school will engage with the track and trace system as before.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19 from Friday 11th December and onwards: please continue to monitor your child for symptoms of Covid-19 until the end of their isolation period. If your child develops symptoms, please ensure they take a Covid-19 test as soon as possible. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, **please engage with the NHS track and trace system and notify the school via email.**

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Remote Learning: parents, children and staff have been amazing and have helped to make the transition to remote learning as smooth as possible. I fully appreciate how difficult this is for parents at home who are trying to manage their own workload whilst support their children, it certainly is not an easy task. Your child's class teacher and teaching assistant will be setting daily learning tasks for their class. This will include a video call. They are also available for parents to contact through Class Dojo. If you have any trouble with accessing Google Classroom or Class Dojo, please email the school office at admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

I hope that you all have a restful weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Read

