



**THE JOHN MOORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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SOAR



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Headteacher: Mrs Ruth Laing BEd (Hons)

Sunday 31st October 2021

COVID-19 update

Dear Parents/Carers,

Over the half term break, we have received an update from The South West Regional Mandate explaining the recommended approach for schools regarding COVID-19 post half-term.

To contextualise this for you, the South West local authority areas are showing a rapid rise in COVID-19 infections and are therefore triggering thresholds for additional action. It is our continued aim to make sure that we;

1. Help to protect the school community's health and prevent widespread transmission of COVID-19
2. Remain open so that our children receive high quality teaching and learning and secure mental and emotional health
3. Encourage the school community to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and adhere to key national messages relating to testing and isolation periods
4. Remain as consistent as we can with any decisions made so that the school community feels safe, the children remain our absolute priority and any disruption to families is as minimal as possible.

The current situation of infections and the rise in COVID cases will continue to have an impact on us and the National Health Service. It seems currently that the majority of cases are in school age groups and thus translating to adults of parent/ carer/ teaching staff age. This means we need to continue the mitigation measures that we put in place before half term to prevent transmission across our school community and hopefully prevent any need for remote learning.

With this increase, it has been advised that South West schools invoke a precautionary set of measures for the 14 days post half term. As such, we will;

1. Continue to promote good infection prevention, through ventilation and enhanced cleaning routines.
2. Staff will continue to carry out LFD testing twice weekly.
3. Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas.
4. Children, staff and visitors will continue to be asked to wash their hands frequently and to use hand sanitiser.

5. Pause whole school assemblies and large gatherings of individuals inside. These will be moved to a virtual platform for the coming weeks. As you are already aware, parents' evenings will be held virtually next week.
6. Bubbles within school will remain for this coming week and will be reviewed during the later part of next week.
7. We will aim that clubs will now begin during the week beginning **8th November** rather than 1st November as originally planned. We apologise sincerely for any inconvenience caused regarding this, but we need to see how things settle next week before we can hopefully begin to run the clubs the following week.
8. For safety, if you have a pre-arranged meeting with a member of staff, these will now be online.
9. Parent helpers and volunteers will be suspended for the time being to keep any visitors to a minimum.
10. School start and finish times will remain the same at present however we ask you to adhere to social distancing where possible when dropping off and picking up. We also ask that once you have dropped off or picked up your child/ren that you vacate the school site as soon as possible.
11. We ask that all parents/ carers wear a face mask when dropping off or picking up at the end of the school day.
12. Classrooms and communal areas will remain well ventilated; therefore you may wish to send your child to school with a base layer under their uniform as the weather turns colder.
13. Staff will continue to prepare remote education in the event of any need for remote learning or further guidance.

We also ask that before your child/ren come back to school on Monday, that you carry out an LFD test to ensure that they are not asymptomatic before coming back into school. This is not mandatory, but it would be greatly appreciated if we could all try and complete this as it will mean that we minimise any potential for new cases coming back into school after the half term break.

It is essential that children who are unwell are not sent to school. If any child/individual shows any symptoms of COVID-19, then please access a PCR test. If negative for COVID 19 – individuals should still wait until 24 hours post illness before returning to school. Obviously if the PCR result is positive, the 10-day isolation period will begin and needs to be adhered to, to stop any potential transmission of COVID-19.

For pupils that are unable to attend school due to contracting COVID-19, their attendance will be recorded as an illness and will be authorised. Children that are not able to attend school due to COVID-19 will also be offered a remote learning offer.

Activities and work will be posted daily for these children to access via their Class Dojo, class story if they are well enough.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, however mild, please isolate as a household (unless you meet the criteria outlined below) and book a test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken a test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol) for at least 24 hours.

If the test is positive your household must self-isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms started, unless any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)
- if symptoms develop, isolate and get tested

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>

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. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

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
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

These measures will be in place for 14 days after half term (apart from the bubble and club situation which we will review later on next week). During this time, we are anticipating further updates from the South West health protection team and we will of course communicate any further updates to you as soon as possible during this period, so we can organise the rest of November and indeed the schedule for December; we have our fingers crossed for a full program of Christmas events.

We know that these may feel like worrying and frustrating times but hopefully we are coming through the worst and as a community we will continue to support each other. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any worries or need any support.

We really look forward to seeing the children back at school tomorrow and hear all about their half term fun!

Best wishes



Ruth Laing

Headteacher