



5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we enter a period of national restrictions, I wanted to write to you with some key updates and our response to continually developing situation.

We know that the announcement by the Prime Minister about a further lockdown may have caused some anxiety. It is clear that whilst the view is that we have to be 'humble in the face of nature', the importance of keeping our children in education settings has determined the decision **to keep schools open**. Guidance on the new lock down measures to be implemented from today, Thursday 5th November can be found [here](#).

We have been awaiting further guidance for schools, this was released last night and can be found [here](#).

Our risk assessment procedures

To date, we have responded immediately to any identified positive cases or any children or staff with symptoms. We have detailed trust-wide procedures to identify contacts and move quickly to ensure that close contacts are sent home to isolate, this supresses possible transmission of the virus in our school and will continue to be our key control measure. Where it is necessary, we will not hesitate to extend to partial or a repeat of a full closure of our setting if we feel this is necessary to protect our community. Our senior leadership team is supported by a team of advisors for the trust and we are confident in our communication channels with the DfE and the Local Health Protection Team; we will continue to monitor the situation vigilantly so that you can remain confident in the care we provide. We know that informing you that your child needs to isolate causes you worry and disruption to your lives and is difficult for our students, thank you for your compliance in this essential control measure.

Clinically vulnerable staff and students

We do have some staff and students who fall into the category of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and Clinically Vulnerable (CV); we constantly revisit our risk assessment for these individuals. The latest guidance is that CEV staff and students should be supported to work remotely and not attend school during the period of national restrictions. We have made these arrangements with staff and will be contacting parents / carers of any CEV students and discussing how the specific advice (copied below) should be applied to them.

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.

Please do contact us directly if you have concerns and you have not already spoken to a member of staff.

Ventilation and wearing masks

We are constantly updating our operational risk assessments. One of the areas we are currently reviewing is good ventilation as a key control measure. It is vital that we keep classrooms ventilated even as we enter the



colder winter months. This week we have been reviewing all rooms across the site and working with staff to update our procedures. To ensure classrooms remain comfortable, we aim to ensure background ventilation throughout the lesson and to plan times where windows and doors are fully opened so that there is a healthy exchange of fresh air.

It remains important that your child wears suitable layers of clothing and we will allow them to wear their coats inside classrooms **should this become necessary** on very cold days.

It continues to be important that we **have your full support and that your child wears a mask** at all times on the school site. Currently, students do not need to wear masks in the classroom, this may change again if infection rates continue to rise. As we enter this period of national restrictions, we are going to ask that students wear their face coverings if they leave their seat and move around the classroom (for example in practical science or food lessons).

Gatherings of students

As we enter the period of national restrictions we ask that you speak to your children about unnecessary gatherings of students after school. Duty staff will move students on from the gates but we have noticed an increase in students meeting friends (from TGAK and from JHNCC) and gathering in large groups. In order to reduce the risk of any transmission we must ask that this does not happen and that you remind your child that Cooks Lane is a 'no waiting zone'. Police will also be enforcing this.

Travel to school

We continue to encourage students to walk or cycle to school and we have recently arranged for more bike storage facilities to be installed so that we have more bike storage on site. If your child does cycle to school, please ensure that they are wearing a helmet for their own safety.

Students that travel on public transport or on school buses must ensure that they are wearing masks whilst they travel to and from school.

Wider curricular activities

We have enjoyed getting students back to wider curricular activities over recent weeks and it has been a pleasure getting to know more students through their love of dance, sport, science and other activities.

The latest guidance is clear that the wider curricular activities must cease during the period of national restrictions and from Friday 6th November, we will pause our wider curricular programme. We will aim to resume our provision as soon as possible as we know how important that this is for student wellbeing.

We are able to continue study support sessions, revision sessions, tutoring and catch up programmes, which is compulsory for those in specific year groups – currently year 11 and in two weeks' time will also cover year 10 and 13, information will be provided. This is commonly known as period 6 and runs from 3.05pm to 4pm.

Ensuring readiness for remote learning

We will always continue to prioritise the health and safety of our staff and students; this means that we will take the action that we need to. It is possible that this may cause significant disruption to your child's education over the coming months. We are working very hard to ensure that our remote education offer continues to improve rapidly. The latest information will always be available on the website and it is essential that you talk to your child about how they log in to **TEAMS** and **Bromcom** so that we are all ready to optimise any time spent in remote education.



The [Moodle](#) is continuing to develop as a resource that will support students with remote learning, revision and additional independent learning. Your child can log on to Moodle using their school username and password, and click on any of their subjects, and any of the topics within that subject.

Continued immediate notification of symptoms and test results

It continues to be of the utmost importance that you continue to follow the guidelines that are there to protect us all. It is important that you remain vigilant to the symptoms of COVID-19. If your child receives a positive test, please inform us as soon as possible. Your prompt communications with us are essential to our risk assessment, thank you for assistance in this.

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)

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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 [online](#) 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

- 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

Please be reassured that we will continue to communicate with you regularly and openly. Should you have any specific questions that you want us to address then please email office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk. I assure you that we will approach the coming weeks with the school community at the heart of all our decision making.

Yours sincerely

Darren Turner
Executive Principal

