



BISHOP PERRIN

Church of England Primary School

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Celebrating learning together in faith, hope and love

9th September 2021

Dear Parents,

Bishop Perrin School Procedures for Managing Positive Covid Cases Autumn Term 2021

Thank you for all your support in helping maintain as safe an environment as possible for the school community with regards to Covid. We are very grateful to all the parents who are able to wear face coverings whilst on site and that everyone is dispersing quickly both at drop off and pick up times.

However, as of Monday 6th September, we are already aware of a school within Richmond Borough reporting through four positive Covid cases in school, so it is vital, for everyone's safety that we maintain a cautious approach here at Bishop Perrin School. Please therefore continue to monitor your children carefully before sending them into school each morning and err on the side of caution if you feel they are displaying any Covid-symptoms by getting a PCR test arranged for them. The main Covid symptoms are as follows (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>) :

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Moving forward, we are putting the following measures in place in the event of a child or member of staff testing positive for Covid. Please be aware that this guidance is subject to change depending on advice and guidance from the Government, Local Authority and Public Health. The key points are:

- If your child is unwell with Covid-related symptoms do not send them into school and you must arrange for a PCR test to determine if they are Covid-positive. PCR tests can be booked via the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/>
- We would advise seeking PCR tests at a drive-in / walk-in centre, rather than postal, as the results are delivered quicker
- Please do not administer medication such as Calpol and send children into school assuming they'll be ok.
- If your child tests positive for Covid, then they must self-isolate for 10 days at home, as per the Government guidance: <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 your child is at home self-isolating, but you feel they are well enough to do some school work, please let us know and we will set up activities for them to complete on Google Classroom during their 10-day self-isolation period. Please only request work to be uploaded to Google Classroom if you are absolutely sure that your child will be able to complete it as it is additional work for teachers to arrange and it would be an unnecessary use of their time if the work set is not undertaken. Our normal policy for children who are at home unwell (with non-Covid related illness) is not to set school work for them, but due to the length of the 10-day Covid isolation period, it is a long time for a child to miss out on what is being taught in school
- As with the Government guidance, if a member of a household tests positive for Covid, all members of the same household will have to undertake a PCR test. This means siblings will need to undertake a PCR test which returns as negative before being allowed back at school. As soon as you get your results through from the PCR test, even if it is during the school day, siblings who have tested as negative from their PCR test can return to school the next day.
- Although siblings are now allowed back in school if they have a negative PCR result, as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid, we are still looking to protect the rest of the school community by asking that they undertake a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) daily for the duration of the self-isolation period of your child who has tested positive.

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- Please forward the NHS confirmation email you will receive for a sibling's negative PCR test to the School Office (info@bishopperrin.richmond.sch.uk), in order to allow us to let them return to school.
- We would also request that you send through the NHS confirmation emails you will receive for the daily LFTs being taken for a sibling/s
- If a child presents with Covid symptoms whilst in school, we will continue to isolate them and phone for them to be collected immediately. Unlike previously, siblings do not need to be collected at the same time, but if it is easier for parents to collect siblings when collecting their unwell child, we are happy to support this. As with the point above, siblings who are absent due to another sibling being unwell with Covid-related symptoms, will have their absence authorised until the results of tests have been received.
- Any member of your family who has tested positive must isolate at home for the full ten days, this includes not accompanying children on to the school premises at drop-off / pick-up time

Although we are maintaining some of the Covid restrictions we had in place last year in school (one-way system, morning temperature taking and eating lunch in class bubbles), if we were to experience a spike in positive Covid cases, under the advice of Public Health, we could be required to reinstate more stringent Covid measures. This could involve reverting back to fully segregated class bubbles, meaning staggered drop-offs and pick-ups and segregated playtimes, with the playground being sub-divided into three sections. We of course want to avoid these worse-case scenarios, but that will only happen if we can minimise the number of positive Covid cases on site, so your support for our measures above will be much appreciated.

The threshold for the school to have to contact Public Health if we have a number of Covid cases is one of the following:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Your help and support in helping us minimise the number of positive cases will be to everyone's benefit if we can avoid reverting back to full-class bubble measures. If you have any questions or are unsure about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Mr Corke