

**Headteacher**

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Laurance Haines School

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Confirmed case of coronavirus (Covid-19) in school

Dear Laurance Haines community,

We have been made aware of a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you that the **school remains open** to children and staff and to provide you with some further advice.

We have contacted the dedicated helpline introduced by Public Health England (PHE) and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority. The helpline's team conducted a rapid investigation to confirm who the individual may have been in close contact with.

This helpline provided us with definitive advice on which individuals need to self-isolate due to close contact. You will have been contacted directly via text message and e mail if your child needs to self-isolate – if you have not been contacted, you do not need to take any action at this point. This case has resulted in the Nursery and Reception bubbles needing to isolate for a further period of 7 days, with the children and staff returning to school on Thursday 26th November.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well even if they have siblings in Reception and Nursery. For single-adult household with children in Nursery or Reception and siblings in other year groups, it may be appropriate to form a support bubble in order that the sibling continues to attend school.

What a support bubble is

A support bubble is a close support network between a household with only one adult or a household with one adult and one or more people who were under the age of 18 on 12 June 2020 in the home (known as a single-adult household) and one other household of any size. This is called making a 'support bubble'.

Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in a single household with people from the other household. It means you can have close contact with that household as if they were members of your own household. Once you make a support bubble, you cannot change who is in your bubble.

Continue to follow social distancing guidance with people outside of your household or support bubble. This is critical to keeping you, your family and friends as safe as possible.

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Who can make a support bubble

You can form a support bubble with another household of any size that is not part of a support bubble with anyone else if you:

- Live by yourself – even if carers visit you to provide support are a single adult living with children who were under 18 on 12 June 2020
- If you live with other adults, including if your carer or carers live with you

You can form a support bubble with one single-adult household who are not part of a support bubble with anyone else:

- If you share custody of your child with someone you do not live with
- If you're a single-adult household, you can form a support bubble with another household other than the one that includes your child's other parent.

If you're not a single adult household, you can form a support bubble with a single-adult household other than the one that includes your child's other parent.

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)

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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/>

This is a timely reminder for us all to remain vigilant and follow the guidelines set out by the Government. We continue to review our risk assessments in order to keep our children, staff and families safe during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Sebastian Gray
Headteacher

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