

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Re: Coronavirus Covid 19 – UPDATE – HELP TO KEEP EVERYONE AT MERIDIAN SAFE**

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope you are all keeping well and safe.

I wanted to write to you today to update you and clarify some things that have arisen this week.

**Test results update**

So far, all those that were off school who have received COVID-19 test results, these results have been negative. Which is great news. I will update you on this situation again next week.

**Test and Trace App**

Today, NHS Test and Trace have introduced the new NHS COVID-19 App. The latest guidance states: *“On 24 September, NHS Test and Trace will launch the NHS COVID-19 app to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action.”* For more information click [here](#)

**Social Distancing**

This continues to be a cause for concern for many parents/carers when they are dropping off and picking up. In the Prime Minister’s announcement this week on further measures to address the rising cases, he stated:

It is critical that everybody observes the following key behaviours:

- HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- FACE - Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.

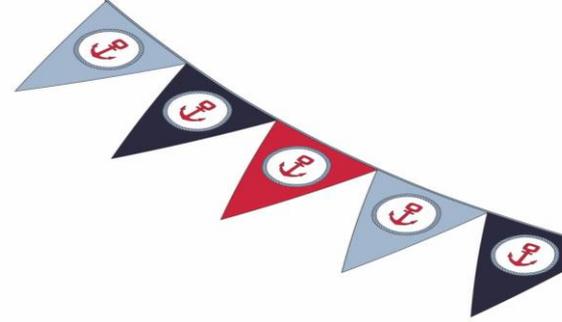
Please help us to keep everyone safe in our local community and support social distancing during drop off, pick ups and waiting on the playground.

**What is a new continuous cough?**

As the weather is starting to get colder, we will start to see more coughs and colds in school. This can then be confusing about deciding when a cough is possible symptom of coronavirus.

**Headteacher - Claire Westcott**  
Roderick Avenue North, Peacehaven  
East Sussex BN10 8BZ  
**Telephone:** 01273 584212  
**e-mail:** [office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
**web:** [www.meridianschool.co.uk](http://www.meridianschool.co.uk)





The NHS guidance states that *"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 are still unsure, please go to <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> for further advice.

If parents/carers call the school to inform us that they are keeping children off because of a continuous cough which fits the criteria above, then we have to trust your judgement and that you have sought appropriate advice. If the advice is to get a test, then you must get a test and inform the school. You cannot then change your mind if your child stops coughing and send them back to school without having a test.

If we see any children coughing continuously in school in line with NHS definition, we will seek NHS advice and if necessary send them home and ask you get a test for them. You must then get a test.

I appreciate that most of us are not medical professionals, however, if we all follow the NHS advice, we will be able to keep each other safe.

### **Why do I need to get a test for my child?**

The Government guidance for reopening schools is very clear that if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, then parents need to get a test. The guidance states:

*"Schools must ensure that staff members and parents/carers understand that they need to be ready and willing to:*

- *book a test if they or their child are showing symptoms"*

The reason we need children to get a test is to support the safety of the school community because we need to know about any confirmed cases. This is to enable me to get advice and make decisions about closing bubbles and sending children home.

If the test is negative, your child can come back to school. If the test is positive, I have to contact the Department for Education and East Sussex County Council to inform them and then close Year Group Bubbles.

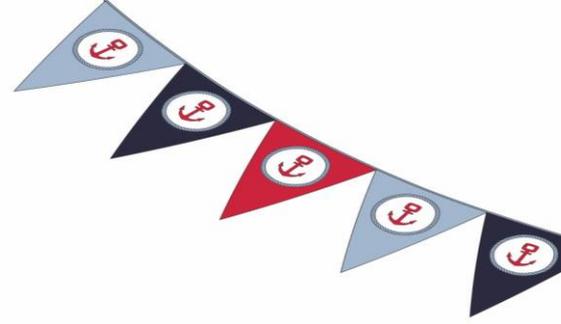
### **Stay at Home Guidance**

This guidance was updated yesterday. You can read it [here](#). It is really useful to read should some in your household develop symptoms compatible with COVID-19.





MERIDIAN COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AND NURSERY  
Learning for Life



I will write to you again soon with any further updates or changes to guidance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

*C. Westcott*

Ms. Claire Westcott  
Headteacher

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

<https://111.nhs.uk/service/COVID-19?StartParameter>

**Headteacher - Claire Westcott**  
Roderick Avenue North, Peacehaven  
East Sussex BN10 8BZ  
**Telephone:** 01273 584212  
**e-mail:** office@meridian.e-sussex.sch.uk  
**web:** www.meridianschool.co.uk

