

Date: 08/12/20

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term we would like to thank you for your continued support and help in trying to reduce coronavirus infections in our community and support children to remain in education.

This term has presented many challenges to parents, school staff and wider support staff, as we all adjusted to new rules and arrangements and worked hard together to keep children safe in school and engaging with their learning. We know there have been a number of covid-19 cases in schools and that this has had an impact on children and staff being out of school for periods of time. We would like to thank you all of you for your co-operation and support with this over the term.

We are writing to you to remind you of important steps we can all take to continue to reduce the risk of infection both in schools as well as in the community as we approach the holiday period.

'Rule of six'

From 2nd December Leicestershire is in Tier 3, which means that you must not meet socially indoors or in most outdoor places with anybody you do not live with, or who is not in your support bubble, this includes in any private garden or at most outdoor venues. You can socialise in a group of no more than 6 in some other outdoor public spaces, including parks - this is called the 'rule of 6'. This rule of 6 also applies to groups of parents/ carers and children and young people meeting outside of school gates before and after school. Indoor playdates with children from other households are not allowed under this rule. The tiers are being reviewed on 16th December 2020.

Your school arrangements

You'll be aware of any particular arrangements your school has in place to reduce risks – such as staggered start and finish times, or one-way systems. Please respect these arrangements in order to keep the number of people coming in and out of school, at any one time, to a minimum. Please ensure that you do not congregate outside of school at pick up or drop off times.

Face coverings in school

We request that face coverings are worn by parents and carers (excluding those exempt due to underlying health conditions) at school pick up and drop off in Leicestershire. If you have decided not to wear a face covering, please stand at least 2 meters away from other adults and children when on site, as this will protect others.

Hand washing:

The simplest way to reduce the risk of the virus spreading is to wash your hands frequently, please wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or a hand sanitiser when you:

- Get home or into work
- Blow your nose, sneeze or cough
- Eat or handle food

Self-isolating

Please take note of the guidance around self-isolating. If your child has been in close contact with someone who later tests positive, or in some cases, if they have been in a bubble where there has been a positive test, your child will be sent home and will have to stay at home and self isolate.

Self-isolation means your child must remain at home both during the school week and during weekends. They shouldn't be taking part in any activities such as sport during this self-isolation period or coming into

contact with anyone outside of their home. Your child should also remain at home while taking other children within the household to school. If it is not possible to keep your child at home while taking other children within the household to school please ensure they wear a face mask and remain at least 2 meters away from others.

Note: although the whole family doesn't have to self-isolate unless your child themselves develops symptoms, you may wish to take extra care during this period, especially to minimise contact you have with older relatives. If your child or anyone else in the household does develop symptoms, the whole household will need to stay at home.

Your child must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days before an individual develops symptoms, or the virus can be detected. If a child has been identified as a contact, a negative test result does not mean they can return to school earlier.

If your child or anyone within the household develops any of these three COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them into school:

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure their 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 they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this may mean that they cannot smell or taste anything, or that things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child develops symptoms, you should follow the national guidance and seek a test. They must stay at home for 10 days from when the symptoms began, unless their test result is negative. If your child is awaiting a test result, please do not send them into school. This can contribute to the spread of COVID-19.

The NHS has produced guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work that schools are undertaking to manage this pandemic and keep our children safe and to thank you for supporting these arrangements.

It is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and future opportunities that they can remain in school. Therefore, it is really important that we all work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Thank you for your support in reducing the spread of this virus.

Kind regards



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Leicestershire County Council



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