

Our Ref : RBr/SLT/TKi220920

22nd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in Baysgarth School**

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school.

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 of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We have a small number of children who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed case. All of these families have been contacted by phone and received a separate letter home. They will be self-isolating until Monday 5th October. If you have not received a letter or phone call, there is no reason to be concerned or to self-isolate.

- You do not need to take your child for a test unless they develop symptoms
- You do not need to have a test yourself unless you display symptoms.

We will be closing the school for all students tomorrow, Wednesday 23rd September, whilst we conduct a deep clean.

Unfortunately, as the confirmed case of Covid-19 is for a member of staff, a significant number of staff are deemed to have been in close contact with them and will have to self-isolate until Monday 5th October. This leaves us short of enough teachers in school to be able to operate the school normally for the next fortnight.

Therefore, from Thursday this week until we are back to full teaching strength (which we fully expect to be from Monday 5th October), we will be running a rota system for students in school. Those students not in school will be set remote learning activities to complete. These will be set on Google Classroom, in the same way that we did during the summer term.

Every class has already been set up on Google Classroom in case a situation like this should arise, so students will be set work for tomorrow when the school is closed and then for every day that they are not in school. We expect students to be checking their emails and Google Classroom streams tonight and tomorrow morning to access the work that has been set for them by their teachers.

We are currently working on the timetable for the next seven school days and will communicate to you which year groups will be in school on which day. You will have this information later today or tomorrow morning to help you plan childcare. We expect students to be in school when they are timetabled to be so. Students who have not been identified as being in close contact with the affected person and are displaying no symptoms should not be kept at home. They should be in school and we will not be authorising absence for any child kept at home without good reason.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause to your family and hope you understand that this situation is out of our control. What we can control is measures to keep our staff and students as safe as possible which is why we are taking the steps outlined above.

Below is a reminder from the government guidelines about what to do if you or your child develops Covid symptoms.

### **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)

**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/>

Yours sincerely



Richard Briggs  
Headteacher

