

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Contingency Planning

As you will be aware, the situation regarding the COVID-19 and subsequent government plans are rapidly changing. We continue to follow the advice from Public Health England regarding our response. Currently, the guidance is clear that schools should remain open as usual, but that we should take extra precautions such as encouraging regular and thorough hand-washing throughout the day, wearing masks/visors in communal areas, implementing group 'bubbles' which do not mix, sanitizing hands and disinfecting work surfaces throughout the day.

Scenario Planning

We are planning for a number of different scenarios.

1. Instruction from the government to close the whole school
2. Infection affects a member of our school community/bubble and a case is confirmed
3. High levels of staff illness/absence make it impossible to staff all classes or children

1. Instruction from the government to close the whole school

We do not intend to shut the school, but we could be instructed to do so by the government as part of a future nationwide policy. In the event of school closure, parents will be informed via ClassDojo and this information will be also be available on the website. We have remote access to these platforms so will be able to message with updates as and when they are needed.

It is important, if the school closes, that children are given opportunities to work at home. A learning pack, books, online learning links and other resources will be sent home with your child on or before the day of closure but if the school needs to close suddenly, these packs will be emailed to parents. Lessons will continue as normal over Zoom and an updated timetable will be uploaded onto ClassDojo. If we have to close for an extended period of time, further plans will be made to ensure children's learning can continue as much as possible.

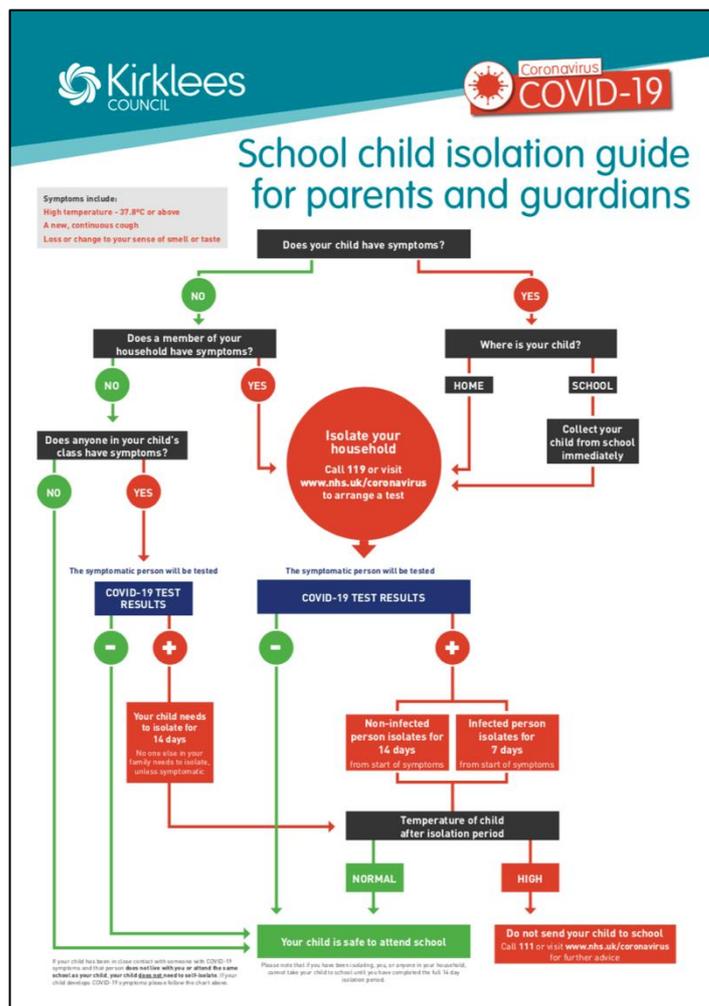
We are aware that some families may lack adequate hardware for an online approach to learning. Where this is the case, we could consider lending the child a laptop. A family would still need to have their own Wi-Fi system to connect to or generous allowance of phone data through which to connect the Chromebook to the internet. If you require a laptop for your child, please contact the school office.

Our teachers are being provided with guidance on a range of strategies for sharing work and support and if we find ourselves in this scenario, we will issue specific instructions to students and parents.

2. Infection affects a member of our school community/bubble and a case is confirmed

In this scenario, the school would have to follow direct guidance and risk assessment from Public Health England. It is possible that some or all of the school (i.e. certain ‘bubbles’) could be closed. In the event of a confirmed case in the school community, a risk assessment will be undertaken by the educational establishment with advice from the local Health Protection Team. In most cases, closure of the whole education setting will be unnecessary as only specific bubble(s) will be told to isolate. Again, if this is the case, a learning pack, books, online learning links and other resources will be sent home with your child. Lessons will continue as normal over Zoom and an updated Zoom timetable will be provided. Similarly, if your child is self-isolating, resources (such as booklets, worksheets and PowerPoints) will be sent to them via ClassDojo to ensure they are able to work from home.

Please see the flowchart below which details the school isolation guide for parents and guardians. A copy has also been uploaded on ClassDojo.



3. High levels of staff illness/absence make it impossible to staff all classes or children

It is possible that for a period of time, the school will be open but a higher than normal number of staff may be absent. Whilst the government are “relaxing” the law regarding maximum class size, if high staff absence does become the case, we will do everything we can to remain open, but on the grounds of health and safety we may have to take the decision to close. However, this would be a last resort. If staff are sent home due to the closure of their ‘bubble’, they are expected to take home all resources, planning and technology required to continue teaching on Zoom.

Postponement of planned events

In line with guidance, we have decided not to postpone any planned events or trips but this may change while we risk assess each event on a case by case basis. We will keep you up to date with decisions that are made. When making decisions our priority will always be the safety and welfare of our pupils, staff and parents.

Communication

During this period, we ask that parents follow the normal absence procedure relating to pupils: call school to inform us of the reason for the absence. If any absence is linked to suspected Covid-19, please ensure that you speak directly to the school office on 01924 925915.

There are updated guidelines regarding staying at home and self-isolating. Please use link for the most up to date information and advice: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Guidance on how to self-isolate to ensure this is effective can be found on the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation-for-patients-undergoing-testing/advice-sheet-home-isolation>

We appreciate your patience, but as you will be aware this is a very fast-changing situation and we are doing what we can to be prepared for any decisions that are made. We will keep you updated as soon as we know any further information.

We ask for your continued support and cooperation as we take decisions in the best interests of our children and to safeguard and protect the health and welfare of our school community.