



Hazelwick School

An Academy

Headteacher: Ms A Fearon BA (Hons) MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mrs R Bowron

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have recently been made aware of three members of our school community who have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) so I am writing with further clarification about the procedures which we are required to follow.

When we are informed that someone who has attended school has tested positive, we are required to take swift action, contacting the dedicated advice service, introduced by Public Health England and delivered by the NHS Business Services Authority.

The advice service carries out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious and to ensure that those people are asked to self-isolate. The advice service works with us and guides us through the actions which we need to take as a school. Based on that advice, we must send home people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious. Close contact means:

- direct close contacts – face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts – extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Those students who are advised to self-isolate will continue to have work set by the school and they are able to access this work through Satchel:one (Show My Homework) in the usual way.

In each case, the advice service also instructs us to send a letter to all parents/carers to inform them that a member of the school community has tested positive, which is why you have received three identical letters to date. We are directed not to share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID 19).

The Public Health England local protection team will also contact us directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive attended the school, as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

I understand that you may find this concerning, but please be assured that we are continuing to monitor the situation, take action where appropriate and inform those necessary, in accordance with the advice that we are given. The school remains open and your daughter/son should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. We are continuing, of course, the measures that are currently in place. These include enforcing the wearing of face coverings at all times around the school site, ensuring that classrooms are well ventilated, rigorously insisting on the use of hand sanitiser on entering and exiting the classroom and maintaining a system of staggered lunchtimes with the year group zoning of social spaces.

I would like to thank you, once again, for your continued support during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully,
Ms A Fearon

Headteacher