

**Headteacher:**  
Mrs M Davis

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20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility over what has been a rapidly changing week. The school recorded its first positive test for coronavirus on Monday and unfortunately since then, there have been a further number of cases which has impacted our capacity to deliver face-to-face teaching.

Several of you will have received more than one letter telling you that your son needs to isolate until a certain date; you may well have received a subsequent one with a different date. This is because as we get more tests results in we have to keep updating when last contacts were made; this then can affect the day your son would become clear of infection after the 14 days. If you have received a letter re isolation it is important that your son adheres to the rules. He must not go out (other than in the garden if you have one) for the duration of his isolation (for many this is until 30<sup>th</sup> Nov) in order to restrict the possible spread of the virus. We appreciate how difficult this is and will work with you to try to break up their days.

It is important you try to get your son into a routine. Up normal time, perhaps work 2 hrs in the morning, a session after lunch before online games etc come out. Your son's tutor will be in touch frequently to ensure access to work set is successful and to talk through any work with your son.

Next Monday is a scheduled INSET day and staff will be engaged in online training all day. Therefore, they will not be able to do telephone learning or any communications that day.

The virus has impacted across our community, staff and students alike. As such, I have had to make the difficult decision with Governors to close the school until Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November – school will reopen on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December**. Clearly, we do not take this decision lightly, with many groups and staff isolating we simply do not have the capacity to open the school safely.

It is important over the next week during isolation that if you think your son, or any family member, has any symptoms (temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste or smell), that you get them tested as soon as you can. If you have any difficulty securing a test, please contact the school and we will deliver a home test to you. The school phones are monitored offsite, we will get back to you if you leave a message. If your son does have a test, please can you ensure that you inform the school as soon as possible. We have been working very closely with Public Health England and have been following their direct advice re testing and isolation.

All students have received work packs, which they have either brought home or have been delivered to you. Tutors will check in and do guided learning tasks with each student. We have updated our online platform and tutors will go through this with your son. Please allow and encourage your son to talk to the tutor when they call. Those boys who receive FSM will have deliveries to their home next week.

We have endeavoured to do our best at school to keep the virus at bay with all the protocols in place re facemasks, cleaning, distancing and keeping keystages apart. However, we all know how virulent this virus is and we must follow Public Health England's advice and manage this current outbreak. Whilst the school is closed, there will be cleaning contractors onsite on Monday to deep clean the entire school using de-fogging equipment. The following Mon 30<sup>th</sup>, the school will have another clean prior to reopening on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

I appreciate how difficult this will be for all of us over the next week and that many families may feel anxious about the current lockdown and increasing rates of Covid 19 transmission nationally. Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to ensure a safe return to school for everyone and that we will support your son over this period of isolation.

If you have any queries or concerns please call the office and leave a message, we will get back to you; if you require a test, or need to report a test, please use the Cornfield app or email [office@cornfieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@cornfieldschool.org.uk)

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs M Davis**  
**Headteacher**

If any of this information is not clear please telephone the school on 01903 731277 where someone will explain it to you

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Cornfield School is part of the Federation of Special Schools comprising Cornfield, Oak Grove, Palatine and Herons Dale

