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Headteacher:  
Mrs M Davis

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, we have had a number of positive tests in school this week. These have been picked up by the Lateral Flow tests conducted in school. Students who have tested positive have had a follow up test at a test centre and any students that were close contacts in school are now isolating.

We have worked extremely hard in school to keep everyone safe; those measures are still in place, however it is inevitable that the virulence of the virus will impact our community at some points. Therefore, if we are to keep the school open for the students who are attending on rotas and service all of the remote learning, it is vital we all keep to the rules and guidelines for this present lockdown. We have managed face covering, cleaning, washing and space extremely well in school, we are confident that we can continue to provide a service, even if through regular testing, we pick up occasional cases. All cases thus far have been asymptomatic (boys generally not showing any symptoms) which means that the Lateral Flow tests have been important in keeping the school community safe and restricting further infection.

Testing at school will continue, with staff being tested twice a week and all students in school on whatever rota, offered a weekly test. In this way, we can reduce the risk of spreading infection whilst remaining open to continue learning activities. Can I ask you please to return a consent form (either yes or no to test) if you have not already done so (by form or email) as soon as possible so as we can continue testing next week. The results from your sons test will be emailed or texted to you direct from NHS Test and Trace. Please inform the office of the result.

If your son does need to go to a test centre, when reporting on most recent contacts, you should include family members and any other persons living in your household together with any close contacts outside of the school. Please allow us at the school to complete our risk assessments on staff as we have protocols in place following Public Health England guidelines for our setting. If you register your son's tutor or individual members of staff, then they may be required to isolate unnecessarily which may well have an impact on both them and the school. If you have any concerns re reporting contacts, please talk to the office at the earliest opportunity.

Next week we have moved Free School Meal packages to the voucher system. These will have either been emailed or posted according to preference. Again, please let the office know if you have any difficulty with these. Welfare visits will still take place next week; please ensure that your son is up at the allotted time so as he can speak to the visiting tutor.

Remote learning has expanded again this week with more devices being sent out to students next week. We have been fortunate to receive yet more donations of devices from our neighbours, for which we are very thankful. The on-line Cornfield community is flourishing and even though we cannot see all the students in person, we are regularly reaching out to all the boys, some of whom are becoming very independently driven learners, which is great to see.

I attach a copy of NHS letter below so you will know what to expect if your son does receive a positive test.

If you have any queries or concerns at all, please contact your son's tutor or the main office [office@cornfieldschool.org.uk](mailto:office@cornfieldschool.org.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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



## General letter to all school students / parents / guardians and staff

### Advice to All Parents - Single case

Dear Parents,

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.

The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 10 days.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

### 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 a PCR test (the normally available test type) 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 10 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 10-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 10 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/>