



2nd November 2020

## Coronavirus Update

Dear Parents/carers,

### 1. National Lockdown in England

As you will be aware, the Government has announced a new national lockdown, which comes into force on Thursday 5th November. Details concerning this and the rules that will come into place are available by clicking this Gov.Uk web link below:

[Details of National Lockdown](#)

### 2. The Firs - Open as Normal

The Firs, like all other schools, will be open as normal throughout this period and I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the measures we have in place in school and our ongoing determination to do everything we can to ensure the safety of all children and staff:

a. *Social Distancing where possible:*

- *By operating Y1-Y4 as separate class bubbles - with separate play and lunch arrangements etc.*
- *By operating our staggered drop off and pick up arrangements*
- *By using one way systems and separate play areas*
- *By having safe occupancy limits on group rooms*

b. *Regular hand washing*

Staff **regularly** remind children to wash their hands well e.g.

- Wash hands with soap and water (or gel if water not available)
- Wash hands for 20 seconds - (sing Happy Birthday twice!)
  - [How to wash your hands](#) or [Washing Hands NHS](#)

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Staff ensure children regularly wash their hands, ensuring enough time is given to it for children to **all** wash their hands properly. e.g.

- On arrival at the beginning of the day
- Before play
- After playtime
- Before eating at lunchtime
- After lunch play
- (After afternoon play)
- Before children go home
- After PE/ physical exercise
- When they have been to the toilet or blown their nose

c. *Additional Cleaning*

We will continue to ensure that, at the end of the day, the rooms children use are cleaned well (we use diluted bleach as advised in the guidance we are following). This includes:

- All table tops
- All classroom surfaces such as benches, trolleys, cupboard fronts
- All Chairs
- Light switches
- Door Handles
- Classroom sinks and draining boards

Toilet areas and communal areas are also cleaned carefully at the end of each day using diluted bleach for surfaces.

In addition there are additional cleaning times at the middle of the day, focused on toilet areas and frequently touched surfaces e.g. door handles, light switches etc.

Staff wipe resources before they are used by different 'bubbles,' using virucidal spray, e.g. Chromebooks and shared PE equipment.

d. *Ensuring good respiratory hygiene*

- We ensure that there are 'tissue bins' and 'ordinary bins' available.
- The '**Catch it, bin it, kill it**' message is reinforced with children **regularly**.
- Appropriate signage has been provided for each class to communicate this message.
- Children have been shown this video (it is flu not Covid 19 but the principles are the same) [Video link](#) and this poster used... [catch-bin-kill.pdf](#)
- Government guidance states that '*Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools.*' If this guidance changes however, we will review our guidance in accordance.

e. *Managing suspected cases of Coronavirus*

We will be continuing to follow Government guidance in how we respond to any suspected case of Coronavirus. More guidance is available on our Coronavirus page, under the Parents tab on our website (or follow the link below).

[Coronavirus Page on website](#)

If a child has any of the following symptoms:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

we will contact you and ask that your child be collected and will need to be tested (details are available on our Coronavirus page). We will also ask you to pick up any siblings).

Like last half term, we will keep other parents/carers in the same class (or year group if appropriate) informed and will take appropriate advice on next steps from our local Public Health Protection Team, if the test result is positive.

### 3. What Parents/carers can do to help

- a. Please keep reminding children about the importance of hand washing/sanitising their hands regularly.
- b. Please remember that only **one** member of the household should be doing the drop off/pick up at school.
- c. If you have returned from a country **not** in a safe travel corridor, then you should self-isolate for **14** days. The [list](#) of travel corridor countries changes daily.
- d. If children do have to self-isolate, please follow the government [Guidance on self isolating](#).
- e. Please try to maintain social distancing, I know it can be tempting to meet up and chat to other parents on site and on the pavements outside the school but please support our efforts to maintain social distancing by going straight home after pick up and drop off.
- f. **Please, please sanitise your hands before changing reading books at the Changing Book stations.**

During this lockdown, as the infection rate continues to rise everywhere, we want to do everything we can, to keep all our children in school with no interruptions to their learning.

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you have any questions, you could look at the 'FAQ information for parents' that we sent out last term. It is available in the [letters home](#) section, under the Parents Tab on our website.

I hope this letter has been useful / reassuring. We will, of course, continue to keep you updated about any developments regarding our provision.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J.G. Campbell  
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