



ASH LEA

*Working together to be
the best that we can be*

20th November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Last weekend we reported our first case of COVID-19 in school. The plan the school had in place was implemented and we were able to inform both families and staff quickly. The speed of our response is dependent on the senior leaders receiving advice from either the Department for Education Covid hotline or Public Health England. The school will inform all families if there is a positive case in school.

The school's main form of communication with our parents / carers is via the Teachers to Parents email system. The school will text all affected families and send a follow up email which contains additional advice. **It is really important that you respond to the email to confirm you have received the information.** Quite a lot of time on Sunday was spent chasing up those responses; in light of this we are asking all parents to check their emails / texts in the evenings and before their child comes to school.

If you receive a letter to say that we have had a positive case in school, but outside of your child's school or transport bubble, your child should continue to attend school. They will not have had contact with the child who has tested positive.

The home school transport will only know about the child who has tested positive and their transport, so it is also important that parents let transport know that their child will not be in school for the period of isolation.

If your child becomes unwell or has a COVID-19 test it is important that school knows as soon as possible. The school has now set up an email address for you to send this information to and it will be checked frequently. As soon as you have the result, contact school by using the new COVID-19 email address covid19@ashlea.notts.sch.uk Obviously, there is the need to let people know who have been in close contact with the affected person outside of school, but I would really appreciate it if you left informing staff and parents to the school. This helps support people's level of anxiety and allows the exact information to go to the people who need to know. We take advice from the DfE and PHE and it is imperative that we follow their direction.

If your child is self-isolating, they will be continue to be supported in their learning by their class team. We will be communicating with other professionals who we know of that your child is self-isolating and they should also be there to advise and support.

Here is the government advice around wellbeing for you and your child should you need this during any period of self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

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Please reach out to your class team if you are finding things difficult when self-isolating. We will endeavour to help you where we can.

Also please remember that government advice on those self-isolating not living with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19 that *"If you are living with children, keep following this guidance to the best of your ability, however, we are aware that not all these measures will be possible.*

Not all these measures will be possible if you, or those you are living with, have significant conditions such as learning disabilities, autism or serious mental illness. Please keep following this guidance to the best of your ability, while keeping yourself and those close to you safe and well, ideally in line with any existing care plans."

This is taken from this document <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

Things to remember:

- Wear your mask around school grounds
- Always be 2 metres away from others when you speak to them
- Minimise all conversations
- Do not come into school; wait in the bus shelter area for a staff member to come to you.
- Drive in to school if possible to drop off / collect your child
- If you have a positive result do not let others involved in school know (except through main office or COVID-19 email). We have a process and we can then give that message in a clear and managed way.
- Please check your emails / text messages at night and before your child comes to school in the morning. An email is the main way we will communicate with you.
- If a child becomes unwell during the day school, with COVID-19 symptoms we support them until you are able to collect them (within the hour of our call). The child will not be allowed on home / school transport.

On a brighter and non-covid note, the school has commissioned a virtual tour which is now on our website. This was made in the first instance to help parents who are looking at their child attending Ash Lea School (we are not allowing visits at the moment). Please have a look; the school looks lovely.

<https://www.ashlea.notts.sch.uk/virtual-tour/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Dawn Wigley

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