

Dear Parents/Carers,

As many of you will be aware the number of confirmed Covid cases at Reedings has been increasing. I will share with you that we currently have 14 live cases across the school. As 5 or more of these confirmed cases in a year group are considered and 'outbreak' we currently have an 'outbreak' in Year 6 only.

We have not taken this decision lightly, but due to the increase in other cases across the school, we will now need to put additional measures in place for **all year groups**. This is certainly not unusual and is the same for most schools.

In line with the latest national guidance and as required by the Public Health team of Hertfordshire County Council we are therefore implementing our Outbreak Management Plan and will be reintroducing the following measures for the following 28 days, after which they will be reviewed to see if they are still necessary.

Face Coverings

- Parents and visitors to the school will need to wear face coverings inside the school building.
- Meetings can still take place at a social distance and/or with the use of masks.
- Staff will wear face covering when inside and moving around the school or where adults cannot social distance (1m+).

Shared Areas

- All children will use their own designated toilets.
- Any shared resources, such as sports, art, and science equipment, will be cleaned between use by different classes / groups.
- Year groups will have lunchtime sittings with no crossover of other year groups.
- When lining up in the morning to come into school, please make sure children distance and do not gather by the gates in a big group. (Although it's lovely they're excited to come in – we really need to limit contact between year groups at the moment.)

Limiting activities

Planned events / activities will be reviewed and risk assessments conducted to determine if these can proceed in line with an agreed system of additional controls or should be postponed.

For example:

- Clubs can take place, but year groups will be socially distanced.
- Children will be unable to attend offsite visits with the exception of swimming lessons where children can walk to the pool, have the changing facilities to themselves and naturally distance from the pool staff. This may mean cancellation of the Year 6 trip to the Tower of London. If this does happen we will rebook for later in the year!
- Assemblies will take place remotely.
- Year groups will play separately.
- Events can take place, outside only. The Remembrance Service will go ahead as planned – weather permitting.
- Decisions will be made regarding the production and school fayre as soon as possible. The production will go ahead and something Christmassy will happen or in place of the fayre– we just aren't quite sure what yet!

Reduction in interaction / close contact situations

- Year 6 staff will re-introduce a space at the front of the class to enable staff to maintain distance from students.
- The staffroom capacity will be limited to ensure staff can social distance.
- Face to face meetings will include the use of masks or move to virtual meetings if appropriate.

PCR testing advice:

As there are children in every year group with a confirmed case and as children mix and play within their year groups at lunch and playtime and of course in class, we are advised to advise you to get your child a **PCR** test. We only need to know the results if your child tests positive.

I am awaiting advice from the local authority regarding the measures I am putting in place as of today and the timeframe for reviewing these measures. Were any of the above information to change I will of course inform you. We are hoping to keep things as normal and do as much as possible to make up for everything children have missed and we promise to keep school as fun and exciting!

Thank you very much for your support and understanding. We wish children learning remotely and all those with Covid well and look forward to seeing everyone back to school soon!

Yours sincerely.

Head Teacher

Mrs Beccy Newton

General COVID information

Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:

- 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 to your destination
- 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 is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Appendix A

How to book a test online when you have been identified as a close contact but do not have symptoms yourself

- 1) Go to [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)
- 2) Scroll down and select start now
- 3) Is the person who needs a test an essential worker? **Select NO**
- 4) Test available scroll to bottom **Select continue**
- 5) Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? **Select NO, none of these symptoms**
- 6) Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test? **Select NO**
- 7) Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? **Select none of the above.**
- 8) Why are you asking for a test? **Select I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.** Then **Select My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms.** **Select continue**
- 9) Complete your details and select how you wish to receive your test.