



Sutton in Craven C.E (V.C) Primary School

Flourish together, in the love of God, to live life in all its fullness.

Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, BD20 7JS

Tel: 01535 632181, Email: admin@sutton-in-cravencofe.n-yorks.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs O Gibbons



17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 UPDATE

I do hope you are safe and well. As you may be aware, I receive updates from Government every day and our Senior Leadership Team consider this information carefully, as well as other guidance from the LA and Public Health England. We undertake a review of COVID numbers daily and measures are taken immediately if a spike is noted – our COVID cases in school have been very low considering the national and local increases.

Following The Prime Minister's briefings, the following has been decided:

- All parents and visitors are advised if a distance cannot be maintained, to wear a mask on school grounds and if coming to or into the office.
- All statutory/essential visitors will wear a mask in school and asked to confirm that they have had a negative Lateral Flow Test result before attending.
- All staff will wear a mask in communal areas unless exempt. Some staff may wear a mask if they are working across year groups. Masks are not worn whilst teaching ordinarily.
- All sports coaches will wear masks around school and whilst teaching.
- All staff continue to test in line with Government guidelines.

We will continue to monitor ALL guidance to ensure that we make informed decisions for the health, safety and well being of our children, staff and families. For more information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Return to school in January and contingency plans

The Government has asked that we review our contingency and outbreak management plans to ensure that we are ready and prepared for any eventuality, particularly in light of and responding to variants of concern. Over the last few days this is exactly what we as a staff team have been doing.

We are extremely hopeful that we will return to school after the Christmas break but wanted to reassure parents and carers that updated risk assessments and plans are in place to ensure the safety and continuity of high quality education for all.

Tracing close contacts and isolation





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- Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.
- As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts.
- Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.
- From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
- all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine
- Children under 5 years are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts.
- Pupils with SEND identified as close contacts should be supported by their school and their families to agree the most appropriate route for testing including, where appropriate, additional support to assist swabbing. For further information please see [SEND guidance](#).

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the NHS online portal or by calling 119. If you / your child develop symptoms at any time, **even if these are mild**, self-isolate immediately, arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test and follow the guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID 19 -

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Further Information





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Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> 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 coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

We know that you have heard this before but as cases increase significantly we are constantly reviewing how we can all do our part in stopping the spread and transmission within school and school community.

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now. Those aged 16 and 17 will be invited to book an appointment or attend a walk-in vaccination clinic: Who can get the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your flexibility and support. All of our measures are calibrated daily and we place our children, staff and community at the centre of all we do.

We anticipate that there will be further updates from the Government over the Christmas and we will let you know of any changes as soon as we possibly can in preparation for a return in January. Should Government guidance change, we will adjust our plans accordingly. The safety of our children, families and staff are at the centre of our discussions.

With very best wishes,

Orla Gibbons

Mrs Orla Gibbons

Headteacher

