



# St Clement Danes Church of England Primary School

Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SU

Tel: 0203 096 9745

Email: [office@stcd.co.uk](mailto:office@stcd.co.uk)

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[www.st-clementdanes.westminster.sch.uk](http://www.st-clementdanes.westminster.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Coxhead

Dear Parents and Carers

## Covid-19

We're grateful to everyone in our school community who is playing their part in navigating the challenging but essential safeguards that have been put in place at this time.

It is important to recognise that our safeguards will only be effective if everyone in the school community is aware of their responsibilities.

Of course, if there were any positive cases, I would contact parents immediately to communicate the plan. I would follow the expert advice of the DfE and Public Health England very carefully, which could include 'bubbles' self-isolating at home and doing Remote Learning. I would take my lead from the experts and communicate with you swiftly and clearly.

This letter is to provide additional information and reminders of the actions families should take in relation to potential symptoms, and to provide an overview of the next steps the school will take if we have a confirmed positive case within our community in the future.

### Isolation

- If any member of your household develops symptoms of Covid-19, your child must not attend school and must stay at home for 14-days, along with the rest of the household. Without a negative test result, household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-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. Exercise should only be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, they should remain at home for at least ten days from the date when their symptoms appeared, unless they have subsequently had a negative test result.
- Once the negative test result has been shared with the school, the child can return to school, provided no other household members have developed symptoms. If another member of the household develops symptoms, the symptomatic person must be tested and begin ten days self-isolation. The household must also begin a new 14- day isolation.

## School Response

If someone at our school tests positive for Covid-19, the local authority, Department for Education, and Public Health England will work with us to risk assess who else should be advised to self-isolate.

In the event of the school receiving notification of a positive case, if a year group or bubble needs to be isolated for any reason, parents of that group will be notified, and remote learning information will be communicated to those parents.

Lessons for the rest of the pupils will continue at school as normal.

Due to GDPR, names of pupils or staff who may have tested positive would not be released to the general school community. In line with the guidance, there are also other situations where we would not notify parents as it does not impact other pupils/families:

- If a child or member of staff is self-isolating due to someone in their household having symptoms or testing positive.
- If a child or member of staff has already been self-isolating and then subsequently develops symptoms (as they will not have had contact with other pupils so the bubble does not need to isolate).
- If a group of children is already isolating and another child in that group subsequently tests positive, we would not need to share this information as it does not impact anyone else at that point. The return to school date for the other pupils is not impacted unless they develop symptoms.
- A child or staff member has been instructed to self-isolate by NHS track and trace.

Although we do not recommend it, we are aware that parents may choose to reveal their individual family's situation on social media or messaging services such as WhatsApp. The school will not confirm any information that has been shared in this way if we would not usually communicate the information to parents.

For any groups of children who are required to isolate, the teachers and I have Remote Learning plans in place. Thank you to the parents who gave feedback to the school at the end of last year about home learning. We have incorporated the feedback into our revised provision. We're of course hoping that any disruptions are minimal but it would be very helpful if you could please take a few minutes to complete this short [ONLINE SURVEY](#) so that we have up-to-date information that will help us support you as best we can in the event of your child's class or bubble needing to isolate.

## Symptoms

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

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

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or by phoning 111.

## How to help stop Covid-19 spreading

There are things we can do to help reduce the risk of ourselves and others getting ill with Covid-19.

- **Hands:** Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.
- **Face:** It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings. When people wear face coverings, it can help others to feel reassured and safe. It may be a good idea when you are dropping off and collecting your children to consider wearing a face covering.
- **Space:** Stay 2 metres apart where possible. Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.

Thank you for following [these systems](#) that have been put in place for school drop-off and pick-up times.

Please be assured that our school is following the government guidance extremely carefully and being very vigilant. We continue to review our school Risk Assessment and contingency plans on at least a weekly basis, and we adapt these as necessary in line with the latest government guidance.

We appreciate your continued co-operation in helping us keep our school community safe so that we can remain open to all of our classes. As the case has been throughout the pandemic, the best approach to keeping Covid-19 levels low is to exercise a safety-first approach. We rely on families and staff within the school community working together take responsibility for this.

The school community has shown great togetherness and consideration towards each other throughout this pandemic and I am sure that will continue for the remaining duration of the pandemic.

With many thanks and my best wishes,

Patricia Coxhead  
Headteacher

