



John of Gaunt Infant & Nursery School

Part of the Aylsham Learning Federation

12th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Steadily, over the course of the past year, the whole United Kingdom has seen life return closer to normal. The country is learning to live with COVID-19, and the main line of defence is now vaccination rather than lockdown.

As is the case with any infectious disease from time-to-time members of our school community will contract COVID-19. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. Clinical studies have shown that children and young people, including those previously considered as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), are at very low risk of serious illness if they catch the virus.



Rest assured that John of Gaunt has undertaken COVID-19 risk assessments and all reasonable steps to manage COVID-19 are in place. From the outset we put a contingency framework in place to activate should it be needed.



I am writing to inform you that at this time we have a small outbreak of Covid in the main school and so I have actioned our contingency framework and we are once again operating in bubbles. Operating in bubbles is not new to us or the children and at this time gives us the best working arrangements. Staff have also resumed wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas but there is no need for the children to do so.



The majority of our day to day school life can continue in bubbles as it did before. However, Read write Inc is a little more challenging as we normally mix the children in Year 1 and 2. For this period of time until half term, your child will still be having their daily phonics lesson but this will be within their class group rather than in their Read Write Inc. group. At the end of this week they will bring their new reading book home but they may have not worked on it in the same way as they normally would have and may therefore need some additional support with their reading.



Although our Nursery is separate, we would like to be proactive and introduce some mitigations. Therefore staff will be wearing face coverings in corridors and communal areas and we would ask parents to please wear a face covering when they enter the nursery at the end of a session to collect their child.

The school and nursery remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

Education settings are no longer undertaking contact tracing, and we are unable to share with you the details of any positive cases. Close contacts will now be identified via

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Spalding B.A. (Hons) M.Ed. (Cantab)

Head of School: Mrs C Toplis B.A. Ed (Hons)

Assistant Head: Mrs R Farmer Early Years Lead: Mrs Gillett Maths Lead: Mrs Simpson

Director of Business and Community Strategy: Mrs J Tuttle

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NHS Test and Trace. 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.

NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

If your child has any of the following symptoms,

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they should self-isolate and you should inform us in the usual way.

You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons) but we advise that they do not return to school if symptoms persist and they continue to be unwell. If the PCR result is positive, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support and I am sure that you would join me in wishing the poorly members of our school community a speedy recovery.

Your sincerely

Clare Toplis



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