



Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School
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Headteacher: Diane Wolstenholme B.Ed.Hons

9th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us during these difficult and unprecedented times.

It has been wonderful to have school open and see the children settling back into their routine and making progress. As such, we find it particularly challenging, as I'm sure you do, when we have to send your child home or close classes. We understand that this is highly disruptive for you, your child and family; I assure you we only do this when we absolutely have to in accordance with following the Government and Public Health guidance. We all have a responsibility to keep everybody safe and we have to follow the Law.

Manchester Local Education Authority have issued all schools with a step by step guide with associated information on how to identify 'contacts'. We use this to ensure that we respond swiftly and appropriately to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID 19.

These are the situations where we may send your child home and how we will contact you in such circumstances:

- If your child displays one of the key symptoms:
 - A temperature of 38 degrees or above
 - A new continuous cough
 - Loss of sense of taste or smell

We will ask you to return home with your child if it is on arrival or telephone you to come and collect your child.

You will be advised to arrange for your child to be tested and the rest of your household must isolate until you have the results of the test. Please follow the government guidance: if they receive a positive test they will need to self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started or if there are no symptoms, they should isolate for 10 days after the test date.

Following a positive test, the rest of your household would need to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you have difficulty accessing a test please speak to us and we may be able to provide a test for you.

- If your child has been identified as being in contact with a confirmed case, their class / bubble will close for 14 days.
- Only your child needs to isolate for this period, the rest of your household does not need to isolate unless someone in your household displays symptoms.

We will telephone you directly to collect your child and inform you of the return date if they do not develop symptoms themselves. If they do display symptoms follow the government advice as above.

We will email all parents when we have a confirmed case in school; this is solely for information purposes. Unless you have been contacted directly by us then your child has not been in contact with the person and you do not need to isolate.

- If your child's class must close or partially close due to insufficient safe staffing levels.

Members of staff are having to self-isolate more often due to them either displaying symptoms / testing positive / being identified as a contact, etc. Where possible we will move staff or children to find a solution but for everybody's safety this must remain within a bubble. Due to the unprecedented level of impact on staff being allowed or able to be in school, it is not always possible for a class to remain open. In such circumstances, we will close a class for the minimum amount of time that is necessary and where possible we will have children in school on a rota basis with a reduced team of staff.

We will send a text message to you; this may be followed by further messages / telephone calls / emails etc. as the circumstances change and to keep you up to date regarding when we can open the class again.

I thank you again for your cooperation, patience and understanding and please be reassured that we want your child to be in school as much as possible whilst keeping everybody safe.

If you would like to discuss your individual circumstances, do not understand anything or need further advice or support, please do not hesitate to contact us and ask to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Take care and keep safe,

Diane Wolstenholme

Diane Wolstenholme
Head teacher.



Hub Partner
Member

