



31st December 2020

Re: School reopening, Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am sure you have already heard the news from the government that the West Midlands is now placed in Tier 4. As per government guidance, we will reopen as planned on Tuesday 5th January at the usual staggered times for your child/children. I would like to reiterate the message of continuing to wash hands regularly with soap and water; keeping your distance with other parents when dropping off or collecting your children; and wearing a suitable face covering. In addition, should you develop any Covid-19 symptoms then you must not drop your child off, you and your entire household should isolate until a negative test result is obtained. If your child has symptoms, then do not send them into school. Please ensure that whole household isolate and organise a test or take advice from the medical professionals by contacting 119 or 111.

Testing for Covid-19 is readily available at the various test centres around the city which can be booked easily. In addition, there are lateral flow tests available for anyone in the city who does not have any symptoms. These are useful to stop any further spread of the virus. Please find all details of symptoms and testing overleaf.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

Your sincerely

Mr H S Dhanjal
Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the day after the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day after when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

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

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

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

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by telephoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- 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 home
- 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
- Remain socially distanced at all times including pick up and drop off. Please consider wearing a mask at these times.

Further Information

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

Lateral Flow Testing

The Civic Centre has been transformed into a mass lateral flow testing centre to provide asymptomatic (without symptoms) testing for Covid-19 with results in 30-60 minutes.

The testing centre is open 7 days a week, providing testing Monday to Friday 8.00am-7.00pm and weekends 10.00am-6.00pm.

There is no requirement to book an appointment, those wanting to get a test can simply arrive, register on site and get tested by providing a nasal and throat swab. **Free parking** is provided for those accessing a test at the adjacent, St Peter's car park (WV1 1LY).

Adults and children over 2 years old are able to access a test, providing they are not displaying Covid-19 symptoms – new continuous cough, temperature or loss/change to the sense of taste or smell. Where this is the case, they will be signposted to a symptomatic test site locally.

The site also does not provide testing for those that have been asked to isolate due to identified close contact with someone who has tested positive. Current local guidance is that anyone who has been required to self-isolate as part of a bubble closure should complete their self-isolation period and should not access the LFT site as a means of returning to school earlier than planned.

Those that test positive by a lateral flow test will be required to self-isolate for 10 days, along with members of their household, and will be required to get a confirmatory Covid-19 test (PCR test) from one of the City's other test sites. Please contact the school as detailed above. Those that test negative can continue with their normal routine. As a reminder, there are 50 PCR test slots a day at the Faulkland Street test centre, that can be accessed by just turning up.

Regular mass testing is one of the key weapons in the fight against Covid-19 with the aim being to provide convenient, accessible and frequent access to testing to identify and isolate positive cases earlier, preventing onward transmission. It is hoped that testing on this scale will drive down the City's infection rates.