



17th December 2020

Dear parent,

Following my letter on December 11th please find attached the most recent parental government guidance which clarifies the process of coronavirus in schools.

<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>

In the new year, as we have been doing throughout this term, we will continue with all our precautions so that we can open safely including a deep clean of all areas. As mentioned in my previous letter year groups will be moved from January 5th to their new bubble areas. This system ensures that individual year groups continue to remain segregated with specific barriers placed in strategic areas. This has ensured that within the academy we have been able to isolate student cases to year groups. We will continue to follow Public Health England’s advice after each positive case and their recommended action that should be taken. The current guidance is very specific for schools:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

“ advice service (or PHE local health protection team if escalated) will work with schools to guide them through the actions they need to take. Based on their advice, schools must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 10 days from the day after contact with the individual tested positive. Close contact means:

- *direct close contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)*
- *proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual*
- *travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person”*

If a positive case is identified seating plans are checked rigorously for lessons on the days we are told that the student is infectious, and a discussion with parents and the affected student takes place to confirm who they mixed with at break and lunch as well as to and from school. This then creates a clear picture of proximity contact. In some schools this has not been possible because of multiple cases in one day or limited seating plans which has resulted in whole year groups being sent home. This has not happened at Oasis Academy Sholing and our cases are not significant when compared nationally with a school of our size.

Principal – Martin Brown

Oasis Academy Sholing

Middle Road, Southampton, SO19 8PH

Tel: 023 8044 8861 Email: info@oasissholing.org

www.oasisacademysholing.org



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I would like to thank you for your continued support with attendance as we continue to be above the national weekly average. We will inform parents if there is a positive case in a bubble and would ask that if your contact details have changed please inform the school. To clarify we will not disclose information which could identify an individual for data protection reasons. Due to a number of concerns raised by parents regarding negative social media comments towards positive case families we would also advise parents protect the medical information of their child and not distribute personal information. This advice would not be applied for the school as we would continue to inform parents of a positive case.

If you have any concerns or point of clarification please do not hesitate to contact the academy directly.

COVID-19 exists in our wider community and therefore it is important to be especially aware of how your child is and whether they have symptoms of COVID-19. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent:

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

You can read the latest guidance about Christmas gatherings by searching for “gov.uk Christmas bubble” or by accessing this webpage:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must get a test and remain at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms first appeared until they receive a negative test result. Anyone with symptoms can receive a test by going to <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Before or on 23rd December

If your child has a positive case for COVID-19 between now and the 23rd December, please inform us as soon as possible by contacting info@oasissholing.org, so that we can inform close contacts.

24th December –Monday 4th January

If your child has a positive test for COVID-19 during the Christmas holiday you must inform Public Health England. This will be done automatically if your child receives a test from a testing centre, and you can also do this by using the NHS App.

We also require you to let us know by leaving a message by emailing info@oasissholing.org

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Starting the new term

If your child has symptoms, is unwell, or it has been confirmed that they have COVID-19, it is very important that they do not return to school until they have been tested and if necessary self-isolated. Please contact us before bringing your child to school, and we can advise you.

If your child is well and is not required to isolate at home, they are to **return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.**

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Kind regards

M Brown
Principal

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