

15 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Advice from the Director of Public Health for Somerset

We have been monitoring COVID-19 cases at school, and working with Public Health Specialists. After conducting a risk-assessment, we have been advised that we continue to have a COVID-19 outbreak within the school.

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. Regardless of severity, for many parents and carers this remains a concerning time. This letter is to inform you of the outbreak and provide advice on how to support your child.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal.

To keep the school community safe, we have been advised to put in place the following measures:

- **Students and staff to undertake twice weekly LFD testing (if asymptomatic) and if they test positive to isolate and arrange a PCR test. Please report positive test results to school. If negative PCR result returned they may return back to school.**
- In school we will promote social distancing and reduce crowding. This may include reducing the number of children gathering (for example all assemblies are taking place remotely) and staggering break and lunch times.
- Reduce intergroup mixing; separating seating for break and lunch, using staggered entry and seating plans in classrooms or on school transport.
- Reduce mixing of staff e.g. by holding meetings remotely.
- Students and staff to wear face coverings in communal areas and classrooms and on ALL school transport please.
- No residential educational visits, open days, transition/taster days, parental attendance, live performances, sporting events. Enrichment will still take place in year group bubbles.
- School production rehearsals will continue, with social distancing, good ventilation of rooms and hand hygiene, and enhanced cleaning of touch points. Anyone showing symptoms must not attend rehearsals.
- If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, we would ask that you order or book a PCR test for your children (if they haven't tested positive in the last 90 days) and whilst you are waiting for their results, get them to do a **daily** LFD test before coming to school. If the LFD tests positive or they develop symptoms please stay off of school.

Somerset County Public Health has asked us to advise you that if your child obtained a negative PCR result from a test taken between 4 and 12 October due to them being a suspected COVID-19 case, they must isolate until you have received a further negative PCR result or the isolation period is

complete. The 10 full days of isolation would start from the onset of symptoms or from the positive LFD result.

A suspected case is:

- A student who has been in close contact with a positive case (such as a household member) **and** the student has tested LFD positive
- A student who is displaying COVID-19 symptoms and has tested LFD positive

Test results from a PCR test taken from 13 October can be deemed accurate. If negative, your child may return to school.

Somerset County Council Public Health will keep these measures under review and we are in constant contact with them.

All classwork will be on Teams and homework is on ClassCharts, as usual. A link to guide on how to use Teams is here: [teams-guide.pdf \(castleschool.co.uk\)](https://www.castleschool.co.uk/teams-guide.pdf). Please let us know if you need a device for your child to complete work at home, as we have a small number of laptops we can loan to students.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

However mild the symptoms, the person with symptoms should isolate immediately and take a PCR test (even if they have already taken an LFD test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/testing/coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

For further information, please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

