



SS Philip and James' Church of England
VA Primary School
With love we flourish
Friday 18th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you and your families are well.

Over the past week, I have been contacted by an increasing number of parents who are concerned about some discussions relating to school that are taking place on various WhatsApp groups. I rarely address WhatsApp however, given the level of communication I have had, I wanted to be clear about the school's position.

If you have a concern or question then please contact the school, we can't help if we don't know. Please do let us know so we can try to do something about it. If you feel uncomfortable about the content of any of the discussions, particularly if they concern a child or member of staff then please forward them to me, there are actions the school can take in these circumstances.

The governors, staff and I are trying to do our best in difficult circumstances. Your feedback to us is always welcome and we have appreciated the large number of supportive messages we have received from parents since the start of term. It is going to be a challenging year for everyone and the support of the entire school community will be more important than ever.

Use of face coverings in school

We are not mandating the use of face coverings by staff or pupils while they are at school because as a school we follow government guidance, and as it stands, The Government has not made it mandatory for children under the age of 11 to wear face coverings. [Please refer to the guidance to schools.](#)

We do appreciate that for some of our families, wearing a face covering provides comfort and security at this time. We also recognise that you may have differing views to those laid out in the government guidance, therefore we understand that you may want your child to wear a face covering during the school day.

If you would like your child to wear a face covering in school, we ask you to inform the school office (so we know the children who have consent to wear a face covering); ensure your child has everything in school that they will need for the day and ensure that your child knows how to wear one safely.

Please be aware, school staff will not be regulating pupils' who are wearing face coverings. Please could I refer you to the [guidance around wearing face coverings](#). From this guidance, I have picked out some key information around how to wear a face covering.

How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used) unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged



When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

Illness procedure

It is that time of year when the usual coughs and colds children pick up are doing the rounds at school. As parents we are very used to recognising a cold in our children but of course that additional anxiety around coronavirus can make us question our judgement. Please refer to the [NHS guidance on colds](#). We have added a [school attendance](#) quick reference document to our website (and also at the end of this newsletter), which we hope will help you with actions to take if and when your child becomes ill over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Awuye
Headteacher

Autumn Term dates September 2020 dates for your diary	
Year 4 Roman Visit	Friday 2 nd October
Year 5 Viking visit	Tuesday 22 nd September
INSET day- school closed for pupils	Friday 23 rd October
Half Term	Monday 26 th October- Friday 30 th October
INSET day- school closed for pupils	Monday 2 nd November
End of Autumn Term	Friday 18 th December 1.30pm
INSET day- school closed for pupils	Monday 4 th January 2021
Start of Spring Term	Tuesday 5 th January

School attendance during Covid-19 pandemic

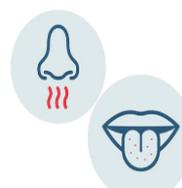
Please contact the school office on **01865 311064** or admissions@ss-philip-and-james.oxon.sch.uk to report all absences and to update us on outcomes of any Covid-19 tests.



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



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

If...	Actions needed	Return to school when...
My child has covid-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school - Contact school to inform us - Whole household to self-isolate - Arrange a test - Immediately inform us when you receive the test result 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have a negative test result or a period of 10 days has passed from the onset of symptoms and the child feels well enough to return
My child tests positive for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school - Inform us and agree an earliest date for return (minimum of 10 days) - Self-isolate the whole household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Period of 10 days has passed from the onset of symptoms and the child feels well enough to return. Your child can return even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/ smell (these symptoms can last for several weeks)
My child tests negative for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us and discuss when your child can come back to school (this should be as soon as possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You have a negative test result
Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school - Contact us to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Household member to arrange a test - Immediate inform us when you receive the test result 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The test comes back negative
Someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school - Contact school to inform us - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days) - Self-isolate the whole household 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your child has completed 14 days of isolation
NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a close contact of someone with symptoms of or confirmed Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school - Contact school to inform us - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your child has completed 14 days of isolation
NHS Test and Trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of someone with symptoms of or confirmed Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The household member must self-isolate for 14 days - Your child can continue to come to school 	Your child can continue to attend school
A sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due there being a positive case in their school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days 	Your child can continue to attend Phil & Jim
My child is unwell with symptoms not linked to Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not send your child to school if they are too unwell to attend - Contact school to let us know - Contact school on each day of illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your child can attend after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea or when they are feeling well enough