

13 November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Advice for Child to Self-Isolate for 14 Days

We were informed yesterday evening of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school. Your child has been identified as one who may have been in close contact with the affected child. In line with the national guidance we recommend that your child **now stay at home and self-isolate** until **Tuesday 24 November**, returning to school on **Wednesday 25 November 2020**. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 14 day self-isolation period. If your child is well at the end of the 14 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities and return to school on **Wednesday 25 November 2020**. For further guidance please click the link to: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#).

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. **If your child 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 phoning 111. The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

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

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from 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 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

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:

- 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 when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

The text above was provided to the school by PHE. I am required to send it out. It feels very impersonal so I want to provide some additional information.

Firstly, I have spoken with the family of the student concerned and they are doing well - we send them our best wishes.

Secondly, I recognise that receiving this letter may be upsetting and frustrating. I know that the decision is likely to cause you practical issues. The reality is that despite the fact that our students have done all that we ask, this virus is such that the kind of contact students are bound to have in any school requires action to prevent further spread. It is all the more frustrating and disappointing knowing there has been so much disruption to the students' education already. There have been a large number of schools similarly affected already and this number will undoubtedly grow.

Thirdly, we will be in contact separately with details of the remote learning that will be set for your child. This will be in line with the curriculum for Year 8, will involve high quality resources to support their learning and will involve direct contact with their teachers.

Finally, as and when I get additional information, I will update you as appropriate. In the meantime, if you have any specific concerns then please do email us at svs@severnvaleschool.com

Yours sincerely,

Richard Johnson
Headteacher