

COVID-19 Update for Parents/Carers

Thank you for your patience and co-operation with our school's Covid strategy.

We strive for a calm and common sense approach. This has involved asking that children attend school only when well. The chief reason behind this approach has been to help manage the apprehension around full school re-opening, including concerns about maintaining adequate staffing levels.

Looking ahead we would like to establish clearer expectations around situations where a child may need to stay at home, acknowledging the distinction between Covid and cold symptoms. We need to move forward confident in our ability to work alongside cold and flu as we have done every year previously, whilst also enjoying a robust system of Covid risk management and consistent practice protocols. This will involve clear processes round the management of Covid symptoms in school in the wider context of public health capacity to test.

We encourage parents to consult the [NHS webpage: Is my child too ill for school?](#) to act as a guide when making the decision as to whether or not your child is well enough to attend. If your child develops any new symptoms whilst in school, or is not able to participate in the daily activities due to feeling unwell then parents will be contacted to collect them. A child displaying mild cold-like symptoms should be able to attend. In the case of a heavy cold, children may need a day or two off to get better.

NHS: If you or your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

Main symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **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 (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- **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*

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

What to do if you have symptoms

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

1. *Get a test to check if you have coronavirus as soon as possible.*

2. *Stay at home and do not have visitors until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.*

Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result.

Get a test to check if you have coronavirus

Here is another very helpful link out together by the DfE: [Coronavirus transmission in schools: your questions answered](#)

We are fully committed to providing high quality Waldorf teaching and learning experiences between teaching staff and pupils, whilst ensuring all feel safe. As a school, we want to turn the abstract mitigations of our risk assessment documents into lived practices and meaningful rhythms and routines in the school day. This involves daily discipline as we all work towards developing a renewed mindset. Thank you, again, for playing your part in our school's safe re-opening and our management of understandable apprehension and considerable anxiety.

Please do continue to take care to maintain distance in the car park when collecting your children. The car park is in use by pool users (many of whom are vulnerable young adults) and it is important that we are considerate in leaving adequate space for them to access the building. Kindergarten parents, please exit via the gate in the hedge to help clear the collection area as quickly as possible. Thank you.

Warm wishes,

Sarah