

# ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hartfield, East Sussex, TN7 4AA

*Learning with Love, Strength and Faith, following the example of Jesus*



Executive Headteacher: Mr J Procter  
Head of School: Miss B Hare  
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs A Hill  
Telephone: 01892 770221  
E-mail address: [office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-maryhartfield.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.pioneerfederation.co.uk](http://www.pioneerfederation.co.uk)



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear St Mary's Families,

We are writing to inform you that St Mary's has a number of COVID-19 cases across the school. We know that you may find this concerning, but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with the UK Health Security Agency. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. You do not need to take any action and your child(ren) should continue to come to school as normal.

The setting remains open and your child(ren) should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. All students and staff, regardless of year group, should remain vigilant regarding COVID-19. All parents are advised to continue with the routine twice weekly asymptomatic LFD COVID-19 testing of those in year 7 and above in the household. As we have had a number of cases in the school within the last 10 days, below are the changes that will be made to the school day for at least the next two weeks – beginning on 17<sup>th</sup> November and being reviewed on 30<sup>th</sup> November. These temporary adjustments are recommended to us by Public Health England.

- **Parent consultations on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November will be held virtually** – we will be holding the parent meetings via Google-Meet and not in school. The timings for the parent meetings will stay the same and a separate email will be sent out with the meeting codes for each of the classes.
- Staff and visitors will be required to wear masks in communal areas where social distancing is not possible.
- The school will continue to be well-ventilated.
- The school will once again operate in two bubbles – Key Stage 1 (including Maple class) and Key Stage 2.
- The bubbles will have staggered lunch and break times.
- The drop off and pick up arrangements will be as follows:

	Drop off	Pick up
Maple	Coming into the lower gate by Maple Class between 8:40 – 8:50am and going straight into classrooms	Leaving from the lower gate by Maple Class at 3:10pm.
Cherry	Coming into the lower gate by Maple Class between 8:40 – 8:50am and going straight into classrooms	Leaving from the upper playground gate at 3:10pm.
Willow	Through the side front door (round the right side of the school – the old front door) between 8:40 – 8:50am and going straight into classrooms.	Pick up at 3:15pm from the side front door (round the right side of the school – the old front door).
Lilac	Through the side front door (round the right side of the school – the old front door) between 8:40 – 8:50am and going straight into classrooms.	Pick up at 3:15pm from outdoor prayer space at the front of the school.

- A member of staff will be on the gate to greet the children and they will use hand sanitiser on entering and before leaving school.
- We will not be having whole school collective worship and instead have these in bubbles. Friday celebration assembly will be held virtually in school.



## Below is information from Public Health England:

If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119. Further guidance can be found at [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-of-people-with-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person)

UKHSA now advises that pupils who are identified by NHS Test and Trace as close or household contacts should undertake daily LFD testing while awaiting the results of a PCR test. **For primary school children this is at the parents' discretion.**

### What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19:

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus-covid-19) or by calling 119 and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. They can return to their normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if their symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms you have are a cough or anosmia, which can last for several weeks. If they still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

If the child has a positive test result but do not have [symptoms](#), they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

### Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 (tested positive or symptomatic awaiting a test result):

Please see the [stay at home guidance](#) with information of what the household should do and who is exempt from isolation as a close contact. Even if you are exempt, it is recommended that contacts get a PCR test, and undertake other measures outlined in the guidance such as limiting contact with anyone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating.

If you / your child develop [symptoms](#) at any time, even if these are mild, self-isolate immediately, [arrange to have a COVID-19 PCR test](#) and follow the [guidance for people with COVID-19 symptoms](#). For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

### Contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August 2021

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are notified you have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an [MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine](#) in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

If you are a health or social care worker or student working in health and social care settings who has been identified as a household contact and are exempt from self-isolation, there is [additional guidance available](#) that you should follow to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 in these settings including not returning to work until you have a negative PCR test.

Students who are under the age of 18 years and 6 months or older students who are fully vaccinated should still attend the educational setting if identified as a close contact. They are recommended to get a PCR test\* if 5 years and older



(for household contacts there is no lower age restriction), avoid anyone who is extremely clinically vulnerable for the time they would have isolated and follow additional measures outlined below.

*\*They should not arrange to have a PCR test if they have previously received a positive PCR test result in the last 90 days, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.*

#### How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19): [guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread](#)

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now. Those aged 16 and 17 will be invited to book an appointment: [Who can get the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). [Those who are aged 12-15 who are themselves clinically extremely vulnerable or live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable or meet JCVI recommendations \(JCVI statement\) are also eligible.](#)
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

#### Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

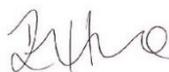
Yours sincerely,



Mr J Procter  
Executive Headteacher



Mr A Brundle  
Chair of Governors



Miss B Hare  
Head of School