



Dartington C of E Primary and Nursery School

Shinners Bridge, Totnes

Devon, TQ9 6JU

T: 01803 862357

E: admin@dartingtonprimary.org

W: dartington.devon.sch.uk

Together we grow, together we flourish

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to you regarding the safety of our children, staff and community. I have updated the most recent Risk Assessment which you will find on the website

<https://www.dartington.devon.sch.uk/news-events/school-letters/>. Due to the high numbers we have in school during this lockdown, many of the areas are now assessed as orange showing an increased level of risk.

The government is asking us to '**act like you have the virus**' but this is not reflected in the numbers of children that we are seeing in school.

The numbers in school are **8 times** what we saw in the first lockdown and in many cases bubbles are much larger than 15, a number that was a requirement in the first lockdown. Some of our bubbles have now reached their full capacity of 30. With this in mind, we ask that you take time to read the risk assessment fully so that we can continue to reduce the risk as much as possible by social distancing and reducing the amount of items travelling in and out of school. Just simple points like only *one adult coming to collect the children and staying behind the yellow painted line* will make a huge difference to the safety of us all in school.

We have seen two schools in the Trust where both staff and children are contracting the virus resulting in closures of bubbles. In fact one child, in the Trust, is very poorly with the virus. Across all year groups we are seeing increasing numbers of children and staff isolating due to positive cases in their household and yet we are told by the government that we are not even at the peak.

Within our community we have recently had confirmation of parents, children and a member of staff who have tested positive. All of these cases have been investigated and due to the time that they were actually in school, there is no further action for us to take, but it is important that we are aware of the rise in local cases. One family has kindly offered for me to share some of their experience, because the children did not have the standard symptoms but developed *blisters on the lips, itchy rashes on their hands and looked tired and pale*. We felt that this was pertinent to share so that you could look out for similar symptoms yourselves as it seems that they are not always the same in everyone.

While the government says that key worker parents can send their children to school, we ask parents to consider **what you should do compared to what you can do**.

We are appealing to key worker parents to keep their children at home where they can.

We understand that remote learning is challenging and that sending children to school might seem a more attractive offer. However, we need to inform you that the children in school are being supervised whilst they complete the same remote learning that the children at home are doing. If this was your reason for taking a key worker space, please keep your child at home.

Does your child need to be full time? If a place is absolutely necessary, what is the minimum amount of time they need to be in school? If another adult is working from home, despite any key worker status in the family, please keep your child at home.



Dartington C of E Primary School and Nursery is proud to be working in a Management Partnership with the Learning Academy Partnership



We never thought we would be asking parents not to send their children to school yet these are unprecedented circumstances. We need to act in the interests of the safety of our children, staff and communities.

We are in this together and we ask you to work with us to minimise the spread of the virus in our school and community.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Huish