

'Together we grow, Together we flourish'



Dear Parents,

Over the last week, we have had a seen a spike in positive Covid cases across the school community and, in particular, in Starlings, Tawny Owls, Nightingales and Kingfishers class. Many children have also had positive LFT's and are currently awaiting the results of a PCR test. Thank you to parents who have organised either postal or drive through PCR tests as a matter of urgency, lots of children have been asymptomatic – not showing any symptoms or signs of being unwell but still carrying the virus. We urge you to get your child a PCR test if they have any of the COVID symptoms. These symptoms of illness might just be a feeling of being unwell, sore throat, upset stomach, light cough or runny nose but the PHE have said reacting to these 'soft symptoms' is key to finding the virus. It is important to note that the school remains open and the enhanced measures we are using at present are aimed at making sure year groups do remain open. Thank you for your continued positive support.

What are we already doing to mitigate the risk?

We have already gone above and beyond the factors in our risk assessment.

- Enhanced cleaning is in place
- Ventilation in all rooms
- Masks for staff in communal areas
- Bubbles are still in place for EYFS/KS1/LKS2 and UKS2
- No whole school assemblies as we remain virtual for these sessions.

Further recommendations that we will be putting in place

- We would urge all parents to begin to wear masks again on the school site. This will help to slow the spread as during busy times on the school grounds it is not possible to socially distance.
- To review any large indoor gathering that cannot offer social distancing. It is right that at this time we move our Nativities and Carol concerts to virtual showings to protect the spread in our community. We had high hopes that they would be live this year, but we want to minimise the spread as much as we can so that everyone can enjoy a healthy and happy Christmas. We have a high number of children and staff off and understand that this is a big disruption. We will do what we can to minimise any future spread of the infection.

Further PHE guidance below:

The school setting remains open and your child should continue to attend if they remain well. 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) or by calling 119.



Dartington C of E Academy
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington
Devon, TQ9 6JU
T: 01803 862357
E: dartington@lapsew.org



TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

When ordering a PCR test it is important to check the box (online) or tell 119 'I've been told to get a test by my health protection team' and not 'I've been told to get a test by my school or nursery'.

Further guidance can be found at Welcome to GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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

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 and remain at home at least until the result is known and they are fever free (without medication) for at least 24 hours.

- If negative, the child can end self-isolation and return to school once well;
- If positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. If the child has a positive test result, but does 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. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

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

From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for 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.

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you are not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing, advised to take extra caution, and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible. If you, or any other household members, attend early years or educational settings, we recommend you undertake daily LFD testing whilst you wait for the PCR result. This is recommended for staff, secondary students and primary students at their guardian's discretion. LFT tests are available to order online or at pharmacies.

Any member of the household who is aged 18 years and 6 months or over and has only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or has not received any dose of the COVID-19 vaccination will still be



Dartington C of E Academy
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington
Devon, TQ9 6JU
T: 01803 862357
E: dartington@lapsw.org



TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

required to self-isolate as a household contact of a someone with COVID-19 symptoms awaiting testing and someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please read the stay at home guidance which provides information on this.

Household members who are not exempt from isolation as close contacts should not go to work, school or public areas, and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. If your child is entitled to FSM we can provide food to help cover the isolation period. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

You could be fined if you do not self-isolate following a notification by NHS Test and Trace. You may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate or you are the parent or guardian of a child who has been told to self-isolate.

Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

Instructions for household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by following the guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread. As well as getting a PCR test, you may also consider:

- limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces (when not in school)
- wearing a face covering for those aged 11 and over in crowded places such as school/college/public transport
- limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- taking part in regular LFD testing if aged 11 years old and older

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating. If you are a health or social care worker or student undertaking a work placement 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.

If you 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.



Dartington C of E Academy
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington
Devon, TQ9 6JU
T: 01803 862357
E: dartington@lapsw.org



TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE

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):

- get vaccinated – everyone aged 12 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments now
- 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 if aged 11 and over 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>

Kind regards

Mrs Huish



Dartington C of E Academy
Shinner's Bridge, Dartington
Devon, TQ9 6JU
T: 01803 862357
E: dartington@lapsw.org



TOGETHER WE EMPOWER EXCELLENCE