



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

1st February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID Lockdown Update

Following the Government announcement last week that schools will continue with the remote learning provision currently in place until at least Monday 8th March I thought it an opportune moment to write to you with a number of updates.

You may be aware that school staff have been asked by the Department for Education (DfE), to take a lateral flow test (LFT) twice weekly, in order to monitor cases of Covid 19 in schools, and to support us to stay open and our communities to stay safe. Up to one in three people who have the virus have it without symptoms (they are asymptomatic) so could spread the disease unknowingly. The tests will be carried out twice weekly so that any member of staff who may be carrying the virus can be identified and asked to isolate in order to control the spread.

Staff at our school will be asked to test each Wednesday and Sunday evening with a number of exceptions to this where staff are part time. Should a member of staff have a positive result, they will need to self-isolate. They will then have to go to a test centre to have a PCR test in order to confirm the result. If this is also positive the bubble which they are part of will close for a ten-day period.

This obviously has implications for all of our families. If your child has a place in school, we may need to ask you to keep your child at home at short notice. We therefore ask that you have short-notice childcare options in place. We will endeavour to get a message of closure to you by 7.30pm on a Wednesday or a Sunday.

We will confirm whether the closure is for 10 days as soon as we receive the result of the second test.

I do understand that this may well be disruptive for you and may be difficult to manage, but I sincerely hope that this development will help us to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. Obviously this is key in order for numbers of cases to reduce and for things to begin to return to normal, including the opening of schools in the near future.

Transmission rates and numbers of cases, however, are only going to reduce both nationally and locally if everyone continues to follow the current Government guidance in relation to the current lockdown. It is imperative that we continue to follow the guidance in place if we are to return to school safely in the near future.



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Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

The current guidance clearly states:

You must not leave, or be outside of your home except for the following specified reasons.

You may leave the home to:

- Shop for basic necessities.
- Go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home.
- Exercise with your household or one other person (in which case you should stay [2m apart](#)). Exercise should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- Meet your [support bubble](#) or [childcare bubble](#) where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted.
- Seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse).
- Attend education or childcare - for those eligible.

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay in your local area. Staying in your local area means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone you do not live with.

Further details can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949950/COVID-19_England_Lockdown_Poster_Digital_1.pdf



Within school we regularly reiterate the expectations re the current lockdown to both staff and pupils to ensure that all members of our school community are as safe as possible. Recently we have had a number of reports of families not following the guidance in place. It is the responsibility of all our parents and carers to ensure that their families are following the guidance, particularly if using our critical worker provision. Should your child be accessing our restricted school provision and we become aware of the current guidelines not being followed this may mean that your child is unable to attend our provision for a period of time in line with our own risk assessment/duty of care to ensure all guidance is adhered to for the benefit of all. Please do not be offended if we do contact you where concerns do arise, we do have a responsibility to all of our families. We would also expect all of our families to be honest should concerns arise so again we can respond appropriately to help keep the whole school community safe.

We are all very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome all our pupils back in school and we can enjoy being together again. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch via the Year Group emails or via feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk. Take care and stay safe.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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