



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID Update – National Lockdown 5th November-2nd December 2020

As we head into the second period of national lockdown I felt it was important to write to you all to share the new updated guidance as it stands so far and also to clarify the actions that we continue to take, as a school, to prioritise the safety of the Spalding Parish Church of England Day School community.

The initial guidance released by the DfE on Wednesday brought a number of changes. This included advice in relation to visitors to the school setting and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals and an update with regards to control measures implemented within school settings.

On Wednesday the advice re visitors was to restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. Since our return in September we have restricted visitors to the school site, including making the decision to not use supply teachers during this time. This will continue in the weeks ahead as we believe visitors/external adults potentially present an unnecessary risk. This may mean, from time to time, that your child is taught by a different school adult in line with the guidance with social distancing adhered to at all times. This does, however, limit the need to use external agencies and means all aspects of our risk assessment are adhered to.

With regards to clinically extremely vulnerable individuals, further evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID 19, even for children with existing health conditions. As such, most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow the original shielding advice. However parents/carers are advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist, if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

For any pupils confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable the advice is not to attend education settings while the national restrictions in place. Should this be the case please get in touch so school can ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to allow your child to continue their education whilst safe at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school with schools remaining fully open during the period of the national lockdown.



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This is obviously a worrying time for all and with that in mind it is imperative that all members of the school community continue to adhere to all the guidance put in place. As a school we are doing everything we can to keep our pupils, staff and families as safe as possible during this current pandemic and would urge you to do the same.

1) **Drop your child off and collect your child at the allocated time slot for your child's surname** – please do not be offended if staff members ask you to wait if you do try to drop off early, the time scales have been put in place for a reason.

2) **Please be aware of other families when accessing and leaving the school site and whilst waiting to access and leave the school site** – please be courteous to other families, keeping your distance, allowing them to pass etc.

3) **Monitor for any symptoms of COVID 19** – do not send your child into school if your child or a member of your household presents with symptoms of coronavirus. Please keep school informed including any test results, positive or negative.

4) **Social distance at all times both when on the school site and when waiting to access the school site** – there can be a build up at gate opening times, again arriving for your allocated time slot will support with this.

The current guidance recommends staying 2 metres away from people you do not live with. Where you cannot stay 2 metres apart you should stay more than 1 metre apart, as well as taking extra steps to stay safe. Given the current national figures it is important that we all continue to be as careful as possible and not complacent about the potential risks around us. We would ask please that all parents/carers adhere to this guidance when on the school site to support us in ensuring the safety of all. Being outdoors is already acknowledged as safer, given the airflow and extra space, however face coverings also offer further protection. **With this in mind we are advising parents/carers to wear face masks whilst on the school site, even where social distancing can be adhered to.** Pupils in primary schools are not advised to wear face masks.

To support with social distancing, given the most recent guidance, we have formally segregated the playground to ensure pupils are able to socially distance effectively whilst maintaining the integrity of each of the class bubbles. EYFS will continue to operate as a bubble given the importance and prevalence of learning through play and allowing all pupils to make the most of all learning opportunities.

More guidance is expected within the coming days and should this result in further actions, I will write to you again. In the meantime I would like to thank you for your continued support as we work together clearly focussed on ensuring we keep all members of the school family as safe as possible. If you do have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch either by phoning the school office, via the Year Group emails or via feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk. Have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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