

'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



8th November, 2021

CV19 Update

CRC Article 19 – All children have the right to be safe.

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been a large increase in the number of children and young people in County Durham testing positive for COVID-19, and the highest case rates are in school-age children. This is leading to the spread of COVID-19 within families and into older age groups.

The increase in COVID-19 cases in children is disrupting their education, affecting schools and has an impact on the wider community.

We have received recommendations from Durham County Council's Public Health Team. This advice recommends Durham schools to return to Bubbles, to return to staggered start and finish times and to cancel any planned school trips and visits.

As you are aware, our school has continued to operate a Bubble system, has continued to operate staggered start and finish times, and has not yet introduced school trips, amongst other measures taken, in order to try and prevent the spread of the virus. We also continue to ensure increased ventilation across our school, we continue to operate ongoing daily cleaning routines, alongside thorough respiratory and hand hygiene procedures as part of our school day.

Where other schools have a significant increase in cases, the cases in our school are currently plateauing. We believe that our continued CV19 restrictions have a significant part to play in this. Given the increasing number of positive CV19 cases across Durham primary and secondary schools, we will continue to operate with our CV19 restrictions for the safety of your children, our staff and our local community.

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

LFD Testing advice

We would recommend that you have a supply of LFD testing kits at home in the event that you are requested to use them. You can order home testing kits to be delivered to your home here www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

Or, you can collect LFD kits at Community Collect sites across the County. To find your nearest collection point please enter your postcode here: maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

If you pick up tests from a pharmacy, you may be asked for a 'Collect Code'. This helps the NHS match your details to the tests. To get a 'collect code' please visit test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/collect-lateral-flow-kits

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Please register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

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

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. Book a free PCR test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test . If positive, your child should isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 full 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.

You must always register the result of your home test at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

Help, support, and further information

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available in the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

Finally, we would like to thank you for everything you've done to keep your family and community safe, and for your patience in continuing to support our school during this challenging time.

Should you have any questions, please contact our School Office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. L. Boulton

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Head Teacher

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Deputy Head Teacher

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Chair of Governors