



2nd September 2020



Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well, and that you managed to get a break during the Summer Holidays.

The Staff and Trustees are looking forward to welcoming your children back at the beginning of the new term, and have been working hard to put the measures in place to keep your children and staff as safe as possible during this difficult time.

You will recall that I wrote to you on 24th July, outlining the exact measures that the School is putting in place from the start of the new term. I would be grateful if you could refresh yourself with regard to the contents of this letter, to ensure that you are aware of the actions that you as parent/carers need to undertake, so that we can continue to work together to support the pupils and staff and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. This letter is available on the School Website, together with other communication sent previously, and links to support groups that you may find helpful.

In addition, the Government has released some updated guidance with regard face masks which I would like to make you aware of, as follows:

Face masks in school

The Government has reported that The Chief Medical Officers from all four nations in the United Kingdom have made it clear that the overall risks to children from COVID-19 in relation to education settings is low. Nationwide, the government is not therefore recommending face coverings are necessary in education settings generally because a system of control, applicable to all education environments, provides additional mitigating measures.

We are therefore following Government advice and will not be advising pupils to wear face masks in school. If, however, there are reasons that you would like your child to wear a face mask, please could you email me directly on pdelamaine@haileyhall.herts.sch.uk.

We will continue to follow Government advice regarding this, and will update you with regard to any change in advice should the transmission rate increase etc.

Face masks on school transport

Government advice is that face coverings should be worn for children over the age of 11, if they are likely to come into contact with people outside of their group on dedicated school transport. Because children may be mixing with others from different key stages on transport, the School are therefore advising that children should wear face masks in taxis. The School will not be enforcing this, however, due to special needs of some of our pupils.

It is important that those pupils wearing masks put them on and take them off appropriately before getting into the taxi and when they disembark. The school will reinforce this message as much as possible, but I would request that if your child is going to wear a mask, that you remind them of the procedure with regard to this. Please see the following link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GncQ_ed-9w&feature=youtu.be

Pupils who wear masks will additionally be required to place them in a sealed plastic container when they arrive into school. Disposable masks should be thrown away safely at the end of the day and cloth masks should be washed every day. If your child is wearing a mask this must be plain with no logos or patterns on it.

Please also advise your children that masks should be kept on for the duration of the journey.

Please also remember to ensure that your child:

- washes their hands before boarding transport and immediately upon their return from school
- understands that touch/contact with other passengers in the vehicle must be limited
- follows any requests from school staff on safe travel are observed
- does not travel if they show any symptoms of coronavirus and you immediately alert the school

I would also like to remind you of the following to ensure that we are all as prepared as possible for the pupils' return:

Returning from abroad

If you are required to self-isolate in your homes for 14 days, following travel from countries to the UK require this, and this period will extend into the commencement of the new term, please could you contact me immediately on the email address as above.

It is imperative that these regulations are followed in order that the risk of infection can be minimised for your school community.

Attendance expectations

As stated previously, it is the Government's directive that all pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the Autumn Term. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well, school attendance is therefore compulsory again from the beginning of the Autumn Term and the usual rules on school attendance apply.

If your child has been shielding, and is under the care of a specialist health professional, you should discuss their care with the health professional before your child returns to

school. Where this is the case please ensure that you contact the School office to discuss this.

If you are worried about your child attending school for any other reason, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can discuss this with you.

Boarding Arrangements

Arrangements for recommencement of boarding has changed slightly. The Head of Residential Care will be writing to Parents/Carers as appropriate regarding this as soon as possible.

Pupils and staff with symptoms of COVID-19, or who have tested positive

As a reminder if your child becomes unwell at home with COVID symptoms you should call the School immediately, and not send your child to school.

Please then follow the advice as attached on the sheet titled '*Information for Parents and Carers on suspected COVID-19 in a child.*'

This advice has changed slightly to the previous guidance sent, so please read this carefully.

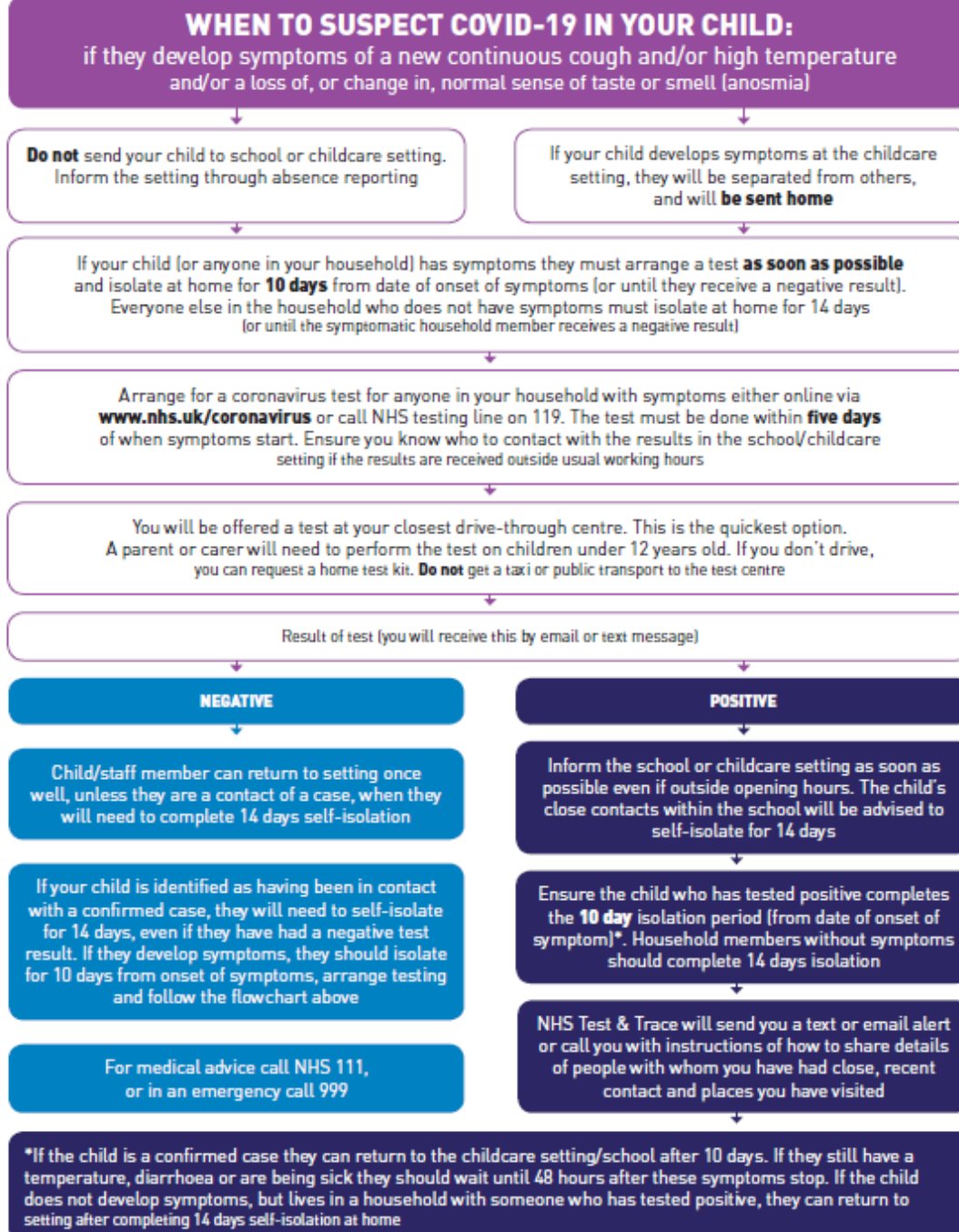
Thank you again for your cooperation at this time. Please do contact the School if you have any queries at all concerning the above.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Delamaine', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Delamaine
Headteacher

Information for parents and carers on suspected COVID-19 (coronavirus) in a child



For general information about COVID-19 please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>