



Tudor Grange Primary Academy
Meon Vale

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We know that the announcement by the Prime Minister on Saturday evening may have caused some anxiety. It is clear that whilst the view is that we have to be 'humble in the face of nature', the importance of keeping our children in education settings has determined the decision **to keep schools open**. Guidance on the new lock down measures to be implemented from Thursday 5th November can be found [here](#). We do not yet have any updated guidance for schools from the DfE, but we feel it is important that we are keeping you updated with our initial response to the emerging situation.

Our risk assessment procedures

To date, we have responded immediately to any identified positive cases or any children or staff with symptoms. We have detailed trust-wide procedures and identify contacts and move quickly to ensure that close contacts are sent home to isolate, this suppresses possible transmission of the virus in our school and will continue to be our key control measure. Where it is necessary, we will not hesitate to extend to partial or even full closure of our setting if we feel this is necessary to protect our community. Our senior leadership team is supported by a team of advisors for the trust and we are confident in our communication channels with the DfE and the Local Health Protection Team; we will continue to monitor the situation vigilantly so that you can remain confident in the care we provide. We know that informing you that your child needs to isolate causes you worry and disruption to your lives and is difficult for our pupils, thank you for your compliance in this essential control measure.

Clinically vulnerable staff and pupils

We do have some staff and pupils who fall into the category of Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and Clinically Vulnerable (CV); we constantly revisit our risk assessment for these individuals and we will do this again at the beginning of this week in light of the data that has been released and the announcement on Saturday. If we need to support staff and/or pupils to work remotely to protect their health, then we will facilitate this by Thursday 5th November. At the moment, for pupils this will be restricted to those who received shielding letters from their GP, but please do contact us directly if you have concerns and you have not already spoken to a member of staff.

Ventilation

We are constantly updating our operational risk assessments. One of the areas we are constantly reviewing is good ventilation as a key control measure. It is vital that we keep classrooms ventilated even as we enter the colder winter months. This week we will be reviewing all rooms across the site and working with staff to update our procedures. To ensure classrooms remain comfortable, we aim to ensure background ventilation throughout the lesson and to plan breaks so that at least once per hour the room is emptied of people, and windows and doors are fully opened so that there is a healthy exchange of fresh air. We will also be meeting with the site team to agree any changes that need to be made to our heating regime as the colder months arrive. We will keep you updated on this. It remains important that your child wears suitable layers of clothing and we will allow them to wear their coats inside classrooms should this become necessary on very cold days.



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Ensuring readiness for remote learning

We will always continue to prioritise the health and safety of our staff and pupils; this means that we will take the action that we need to. It is possible that this may cause significant disruption to your child's education over the coming months. We are working very hard to ensure that our remote education offer continues to improve rapidly, it is essential that you talk to your child about logins, access to teams so that we are all ready to optimise any time spent in remote education.

Continued immediate notification of symptoms and test results

It continues to be of the upmost importance that you continue to follow the guidelines that are there to protect us all. It is important that you remain vigilant to the symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is symptomatic and you have arranged a test for them, please inform us using logier@meonvale.tgacademy.org.uk as this may provide additional information that may be useful for our conversations with Public Health England. Your prompt communications with us are essential to our risk assessment, thank you for assistance in this.

The current guidance remains:

What to do if students develop symptoms of COVID 19

If students develop symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via or by calling 119 or visiting this [link](#). You should also inform your school if your child becomes symptomatic.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (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)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 [online](#) or by phoning 111.



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How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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

Please be reassured that we will continue to communicate with you regularly and openly. Should you have any specific questions that you want us to address then please email agreen@redditch.tgacademy.org.uk and we will endeavour to respond within 24 hours. I assure you that we will approach the coming weeks with the school community at the heart of all our decision making.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Jodie Bolter

Principal Tudor Grange Primary Academy Meon Vale