



St. Mary's Church of England VC Infant School

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Monday 16th November 2020

Covid-19 update

Dear Parents/carers,

I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well. As we head into our second full week of National Lockdown 2, I wanted to share a few reminders to with you of ways that you can help us to keep our whole school community safe during this phase of the pandemic and in the weeks/months ahead.

Face coverings

Thank you, once again, to those parents who are wearing face-coverings when dropping off or picking up children. This has meant that our more vulnerable parents feel safer bringing their children into school each day. **Please continue to wear your face covering at all times**, both before and after school, in addition to socially distancing yourself from others in order to keep our whole school community safe.

Parent contact details/children who are symptomatic

Please ensure that the contact details we hold for parents/carers on our school system are up to date. It is also **extremely important** that parents are contactable at any point during the school day, should we need to send children home who may be requested to self-isolate. Emergency contact details for each child should also be up to date, so that we are able to contact them if we can't get hold of parents for any reason. It is important that parents check School Gateway and Class Dojo notifications throughout the day, as this is the route we will take to let parents know if we need to close a year group bubble at any point, should we have a positive case in school.

If your child is displaying any of the following symptoms, **they should not be brought into school:**

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your 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 the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirussymptoms/>.

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

Government guidelines:

'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

Ensuring that pupils, staff and other adults do not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days and ensuring anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home, are essential actions to reduce the risk in schools and further drive down transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), **they must be sent home** and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

If a parent is contacted, due to the fact that their child is showing symptoms whilst in school, it is vitally important for the safety of both children and staff that they are collected immediately.

Updated DFE guidance for parents and carers

The Department For Education have updated their guidance for parents and carers on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). This update provides information on the national restrictions that came into force on 5 November, the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people and advice on the use of face coverings in education settings.

Message from Herts County Council: New self-isolation guide being shared across Hertfordshire

We're sharing this information on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and the Local Resilience Forum who support the countywide response to coronavirus.

Did you know that only 20% of people in Hertfordshire self-isolate when they are asked to by a nursery, school, college, workplace, Test and Trace or a health professional? 1 in 4 of us admitted that we'd still pop to the shops even if we had been asked to self-isolate.

We know it's not easy and self-isolation can have a real impact on our lives, however if we're asked to do it, it's one of the most important things we can do to reduce the spread of coronavirus.

We've pulled together a guide which we hope simplifies some of the rules around self-isolation, the reason for the number of days you might be asked to self-isolate for (including as part of a school bubble), how to recognise symptoms of coronavirus and when to book a test. Please see the link below.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/play-your-part-important-information-about-how-you-can-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus>

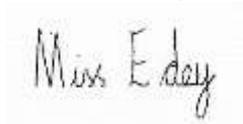
'Sharing, Caring, Learning and Loving with God'

Help is available to support you and your family, should anyone from your household need to self-isolate, or if you've been affected by coronavirus in anyway – there is some information about the help available in the guide.

Thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight to reduce the impact of coronavirus in Hertfordshire, and for helping to keep our communities safe.

We know that another lockdown is extremely challenging for everyone but, by continuing to work as a whole school community, we will be able to get through this tricky period together. Please remember that vulnerable staff and children will be working in school, so it is critical that we all do our bit and follow the rules to support their health and well-being.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miss Edey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Miss V Edey
Headteacher