



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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05 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this letter by once again thanking you for your patience and support as we have moved into tighter restrictions. As anticipated, the government have produced new DFE guidance for schools. The full document can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

As a school, our rigorous procedures and risk assessments mean that we do not have to make many changes to the safety measures we already have in place. Overall, across the whole document the highlighted changes to all schools are:

- Clinically extremely vulnerable staff and pupils
- Face coverings (primarily in older settings)
- The role of several curriculum subjects such as drama, music and dance
- School sports and extra-curricular activities.
- Visits and visitors into school

Areas we will not be changing

We are not having to take many actions in light of these changes, we have communicated with our staff who have received a letter from their doctor and they are now shielding where possible, this will not affect the education of the children as it does not impact on the teaching staff.

The changes around face covering are mainly for older children, however we do still stand by our decision in asking you to wear face covering on and around the site as this certainly helps to minimise the viral load. We now also have some members of staff in school, who at times will wear a shield as they are either vulnerable themselves or have clinically extremely vulnerable people at home.

We already have a strict risk assessment around our sports and music provision so no changes are needed here.

New arrangements

In September we were welcoming back volunteers to help with reading and forest school, this was made possible through the risk assessments around hand washing and social distancing, however the guidance now states that:

“Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary. This means suspending parent and carer visits for:

- *new admissions,*
- *settling-in children new to the setting*
- *attending organised performances”*

As a result of this guidance we are now going to ask that no adult comes into the school at drop off time to ask questions or share information unless it is an emergency. I know it is difficult to drop and run but it is safer for everyone, this means we are also asking you not to hang around the door or on the school site for longer than necessary. Please also wear your masks, especially if you are having to talk to the teacher on the door as a matter of emergency. As I have said all along I am desperately trying to keep the school and bubbles open for all, please understand that every morning I am asking my staff to put themselves at great risk by coming in contact with at least 30 different adults from 30 different families!

Any questions or discussion points that you would normally do at the door can be communicated through the year group emails for Years 1 and 2 and Tapestry for Year R .

Year1@purbrook-inf.hants.gov.uk

Year2@purbrook-inf.hants.gov.uk

Linked to this area of the guidance is the number of visits we have into school for Christmas. I am sure this will not come as a surprise to you but we will not be holding live nativities this year and some of our normal Christmas activities will also not be able to run. I appreciate this is a devastating blow, I am a huge fan of Christmas and fully understand how upsetting this will be for you. However, we are planning on putting on some kind of nativity, in a different way, and we will ensure the children still have festive opportunities in school. *More information will follow as we approach December.*

Just a few reminders

One-way system

Please can I take this opportunity to thank those of you carefully adhering to the one-way system, especially during these winter months! I would like to ask those that are continuing to come in the exit gate to please consider the safety of themselves and those around them, these systems are in place for your safety. It is not a recommendation that you use this route it is mandatory, and very frustrating for those who are consistently following the rules. If you are worried about being late, please do not panic, continue on the one-way system and pop the children into the front office if necessary. If you are concerned about this or feel you have a medical need, which means you may need to take the shorter route please make contact to share those concerns with us.

Clothing

Although we expect the children to wear uniform every day, we are having to keep the school well ventilated. This means windows are open constantly (heating is on) and the classrooms are chillier than normal. If you feel your child may feel the cold, please can they wear a vest or bring in additional jumpers or fleece etc.

When to isolate/get a test

NHS Covid-19 Rules

Owing to the rise in infection rates, I thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone of the NHS guidance.

Self-isolate immediately if:

- you or your children/family members have any [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- have tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- you live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- [you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#)
- you arrive in the UK from a country with a high coronavirus risk – see [GOV.UK: how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK](#)

Don't:

- do not go to work, school or public places – work from home if you can
- do not go on public transport or use taxis
- do not go out to get food and medicine – order it online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home
- do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for people providing essential care
- do not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one

When to get a test

Get a test as soon as possible if you have any symptoms of coronavirus.

The symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

The test needs to be done in the first 8 days of having symptoms

You do not need to get a test if you have no symptoms or if you have different symptoms. You also do not need to get a test if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. You should self-isolate. A test is only required if you subsequently develop symptoms. If a test is taken too early, the result would be a false negative.

For advice please call 111 or go to the Gov.UK Website to check if you have coronavirus [Gov.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

How long to self-isolate

If you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus, you'll usually need to self-isolate for at least 10 days.

You'll usually need to self-isolate for 14 days if:

- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive
- someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- you've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

Where "YOU" has been used, please also take this to mean your child.

Apologies for such a long letter, if you have any questions related to the information shared please call and ask to speak to me.

As I have expressed so many times in the past, we really appreciate your support in all these ever changing matters and by working so well together as a school community we are doing such a fantastic job of keeping each other safe, please keep calling in with your questions and keeping us in the loop with any track and trace matters, it really helps.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L de Carteret
Headteacher