

# Shepherds Down School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to welcoming back the vast majority of children full time next week. I know many of you are looking forward to it too! Some of you have decided to wait a few weeks or for your child to return part time initially, which is completely understandable and we are happy to accommodate this. As far as I am aware the transport arrangements which were in place before 'lockdown' will resume as well. The transport team should be in touch if there are any difficulties with this.

We will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe and minimise the risk of transmission of the virus, by continuing to follow all the precautions in our risk assessment. I want to remind you of how you can help us with this. In particular, we ask that you:

- Remain vigilant to any symptoms of coronavirus with your child or anyone in your household and keep your child away from school and seek a test ASAP.
- Keep your child at home if anyone in the household is getting a test, until the result is known
- Keep school informed of any changes in your child or other members of the household health, especially in relation to coronavirus symptoms
- Keep your child at home for 10 days if you are informed by school that one of the adults or children in your child's class or 'bubble' (depending on the advice from public health) has tested positive for COVID 19
- Keep your child at home if they are unwell, even when it not in relation to COVID 19 – to limit spread of infections of any kind at this time, especially as we have limited cover options within 'bubbles'
- Ensure that your child is not having close contact with anyone outside of their household/childcare bubble, in accordance with the current government guidance
- Arrive between 9:10 – 9:20pm and 3:10 – 3:20pm if you are transporting your child to and from school to minimise congestion and observe social distancing whilst waiting and when talking to staff.
- Wear a mask when you drop off and pick up your child
- Ensure your child has sufficient clothing to keep them warm in a ventilated classroom.

You might have heard NHS Test and Trace announce earlier this week, that all adults in households with school age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus testing. These tests are designed to detect the virus when there are no symptoms present, they do not replace the need for a normal (PCR) test if you have any symptoms of the virus. The tests are voluntary but we would ask that you consider using them. Most staff are currently undertaking these lateral flow tests twice a week and for the households of our children to do so too would significantly help to further reduce the transmission of the virus within the school community. They are fast, easy and completely free and can be collected or ordered online by the following methods:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- ordering a home test kit online



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If you do decide to use them, please let us know asap if you have a positive result and ensure all your household isolates, just like you would with a positive PCR (normal) result. If you have any queries about these tests please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines).

Whilst we will be pleased to see your child in school next week or soon after, I expect many of you will have mixed feelings about it. If there is any help you need to support your child's return to school, or if you have any concerns or want to discuss anything further do not hesitate to get in touch.

Take care

Debby