



Sunday 8th November 2020

COVID-19 Update 04.11.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister last Saturday, we once again began a national lockdown on Thursday 5th November. At this time, I can appreciate that anxiety levels around COVID have increased as the number of cases in the community have risen. I apologise for the nature of this letter however, it is important that we comply with the changes in the law helping to keep everyone safe and our school open.

As a school, we continue to follow the guidance set out by the government. As the guidance changes we adjust our practice to meet these changes. Please click on the link, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november> to see the latest government guidance (updated on 3rd November). Also, click on the school's most recent risk assessment, which we emailed today ADD LINK .

During this second period of lockdown, attendance at school remains compulsory. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable then your child must still attend school.

COVID numbers are rising rapidly across the whole of the UK and in other countries. We must act now to control the spread of the virus. The single most important action we can take to fight coronavirus is to stay at home to protect the NHS.

When we reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we reduce the spread of the infection. That is why from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December, you must:

- 1. Stay at home, except for specific purposes.**
- 2. Avoid meeting people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.**
- 3. Close certain businesses and venues.**

We have been very fortunate so far that we have been able to keep all of our 'bubbles' open in school and not had to send any children home. As the virus spreads there may well come a time, whereby we have to close a class or year group bubble due to a confirmed case. If staff are sick and we are unable to cover the class from within the school we may have to temporarily close the school bubble until the member/s of staff are well enough to return to school. Please refer to our remote learning policy, as learning would revert to online if any class or year group needed to self-isolate or be sent home for any reason.

School will continue to be open and start/finish times will remain the same. However, the tightening of rules around social distancing mean that we have to make some changes. This to ensure that everyone complies with the guidance to help keep everyone safe.

What are the changes, which might affect me?

You will only be able to leave home if you have 'reasonable excuse' one of these being



dropping your child to school.

Changes to drop off and collection.

Children **MUST** be collected and dropped off by an adult from their household. There are 3 exemptions to this.

1 – **You are in a support bubble** – This means if you are a single parent and have formed a support bubble with another household a member of your support bubble can also collect your child. Once formed a support bubble is exclusive and cannot be changed. You must register the names of adults in your support bubble with the school using the email below by tomorrow lunchtime.

2 – **You are part of a childcare bubble** – for the purposes of informal childcare only 2 households can link to form a childcare bubble. A childcare bubble only exists where parents are unable to pick up/drop off due to work/education and training or attending an interview. This arrangement is exclusive and once established cannot be changed. You must register the names of adults in your childcare bubble with the school using the email below by tomorrow lunchtime.

3 – **Registered childcare** – This may include registered childminder/nanny/etc. This arrangement is exclusive and once established cannot be changed. The guidance dictates that formal arrangements cannot run alongside informal arrangements. You must register the names of your registered childcare with the school using the email below by tomorrow lunchtime.

This is the email for registering your childcare arrangements admin@parkside.herts.sch.uk

This does mean that you should reconfirm any existing childcare arrangements with us so that they can continue during lockdown.

In short, due to the changes in the restrictions for this lockdown we will only release your child to someone else if they have been preregistered with the school. This will of course be subject to changes in the guidance.

The social distancing restrictions also apply to parents whilst they are collecting or dropping off their children. You must not gather unless you are with your household or your support bubble.

We ask that all parents / carers help us to support these restrictions.

I would like to thank parents for their continuing support through this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



C Soyka
Headtaecher

HANDS, FACE, SPACE

