



15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PARTIAL CLOSURE OF THE SCHOOL**

Dear Parents / Carers,

I write to you this evening to inform you that we have been made aware that a member of our school community who has tested positive for COVID 19. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

We will have to close the **Nursery, Reception and Year 6** from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November through to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. A member of the senior leadership team has tested positive for Coronavirus and has had close contact with a number of staff and on the advice from the medical consultant at Hertfordshire County Council and the Director of Operations at Herts for Learning we have been instructed to close the year groups to prevent further spread of the virus. As a result, Mrs Taylor Mrs Conley, Ms Chandler, Mrs Weinstein, Mr Wanless, Miss Wood and Mrs Davis as well as Miss Hemsworth, Mrs Harrison and all support staff in Nursery and Reception will all be in isolation until Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

I can only apologise for the inconvenience this will cause you and your families.

The school will continue to be managed remotely by Mrs Taylor and myself with support from other members of the senior leadership team. Support is on hand from Herts for Learning through the county should there be a need for them to be called.

***All matters of safeguarding will be dealt with by Mrs Mattholie our Parental Engagement Officer who will then liaise with myself remotely.***

The teachers in Nursery, Reception and Year 6 will set work on line for children over the next two weeks and can be accessed via email should you need to contact them at:

[kim.chandler@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kim.chandler@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

[ruby.hemsworth@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ruby.hemsworth@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

[melanie.weinstein@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:melanie.weinstein@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

[liam.wanless@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:liam.wanless@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

[janette.wood@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:janette.wood@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

[kerry.harrison@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kerry.harrison@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

For those of you not able to access learning on line packs of work will be left in tubs to be collected from the gates on Aycliffe and Allerton Road from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Both Year 2 classes will be taught by Mrs Banton from Monday and she will be ably supported by Miss Burke, Ms Todd, Miss Kostova and Mrs Brown the student teacher from Hertfordshire University because Mrs Weinstein will be absent from school for the next two weeks.

We have done this on advice from the county because the children are not at risk.

All children who receive a free school meal, their lunches will still be provided by the school kitchen and should be collected from the front gate on Aycliffe Road from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November between 11:30am and 12:15pm. A further update regarding lunches will be sent out tomorrow.

Key Worker and Vulnerable children in Year 6 will be contacted tomorrow so that they can come to school as normal from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Please be assured that classrooms in Nursery Reception Year 5 and 6 will be deep cleaned according to Covid -19 guidelines in the next week.

Please remember the following: What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and 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 <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

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

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- 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-coronavirus-symptoms/>. 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.

### 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

Do

- 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

Further Information Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I can only apologise once again for any inconvenience the closing of the classes will cause and for the late notice. I know that the timing is far from ideal but we only found out the information earlier this evening. If for any reason you may wish to contact me I can be reached through the school office or at [head@parkside.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@parkside.herts.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



Headteacher