

NEWSLETTER



Latest COVID-19 guidance

As parents will be aware, this morning at 7:45am school were notified of a positive case in our Year 3 bubble. School acted in accordance with Public Health England (PHE) by informing parents as soon as this confirmation was received. Following advice from Public Health England the following measures have been taken:

- As a precaution, all children in Year 3 are to self-isolate for 14 days—guidance on this can be found on the gov.uk website
- Staff within Year 3 are to self-isolate for 14 days
- No other year groups are affected

As a result, children in Year 3 will remain at home from Monday 7th September until we re-open the Year 3 classes on Monday 21st September. During this two week period, children in Year 3 will receive a package of home learning support—class teachers will be in contact during the next couple of days with information about this.

Can my child's siblings attend school?

Advice from Public Health England is that siblings at school **are still able to attend as usual** and other family members, living in the household, are not affected by the requirement to self-isolate, as they have not been in direct contact with the individual who has tested positive.

Our bubble approach, as outlined in our home school agreement and return to school video, means that a positive test in Year 3 does not have any additional implications for other year groups. Therefore, **attendance at school is mandatory** for all other year groups and any absence will be marked as unauthorised. Home learning will not be provided for any year groups that remain open. As stated in DFE guidance:

'Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development...this impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn therefore we need to ensure that all pupils are in school...Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind.'

School and families working together

Having our first positive case of COVID-19 has been challenging for our whole school community including parents, children and staff. We ask for patience and understanding today, and for the foreseeable future, as we adjust to returning to school during these unprecedented times. The safety of our children, staff and families underpin all of our current procedures which have been fully approved by Public Health England.

What if my child develops symptoms?

As stated in NHS guidance, below are the three main symptoms that may indicate that your child, or a member of your household has coronavirus.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

In line with government guidance, school will ask you to do the following:

- Inform school immediately if your child is absent with suspected symptoms
- To self-isolate for **10 days** from date of onset of symptoms (or until they receive a negative result)
- To take a **coronavirus test**
- That members of their household should self-isolate for **14 days** (or until the symptomatic household member receives a negative result)

If your child develops symptoms whilst at school, you will be contacted and asked to collect your child immediately and you will be instructed to do the above.

What if a child or staff member tests positive?

It is vital that coronavirus test results are communicated with school as soon as they are received (even if this is during an evening or a weekend) using info@eastparkacademy.com or via telephone if a test result is received during school hours.

Please do not email school with queries about whether a positive test has occurred as parents will be notified as soon as we are aware of this. Speculation is not helpful.

Xtra Parkers and Sports club

We have reviewed our current COVID-19 preventative measures and have made the decision that we are unable to continue running Xtra Parkers and our Friday sports club for this half term as both of these involve children from different year group bubbles interacting with each other. We apologise for any inconvenience that this will cause. We will review this towards the end of the term.