

We now find ourselves in a new lockdown situation where the school remains open but everything around us shuts down for a month. With cases rising rapidly in Slough and surrounding areas we are seeing more impact on our school community in terms of positive test results and resulting self isolation of staff and pupils.

We will always communicate positive cases where they affect our pupils. We can only act appropriately if parents inform us immediately if their child has symptoms, has tested positive or is self isolating because another member of the household has symptoms or has tested positive. Please ring or email the school office as soon as you can.

This bulletin outlines measures we are taking over the next month or so to assist with this uncertain period.

Current status:

The cases per 100,000 (210) in Slough continues to rise with an increase of 75 cases compared to the previous week.

We had one positive case in year 3 before half term which resulted in a class being sent home. We are aware of at least two families who have been affected by positive tests but the children have not been in school in the period which would have resulted in any action being taken.

We currently have a number of staff self isolating after being contacted by test and trace or somebody in their household testing positive. This inevitably places pressure on our cover capability, which is severely restricted at the moment. It is likely that we will be in a position soon when we can no longer provide enough cover for safety and would then need to close classes. In this case, we will inform parents via parentpay and move to remote learning.

For advice on when to self isolate please see a link to the guidance below.

Face masks:

A number of parents have asked if we are planning to make the wearing of face masks compulsory on the playground. Although there are a lot of parents moving around the playgrounds before and after school this is all outside and there should be no close contact (eg face to face conversations less than 1m apart, close proximity within 2 metres for 15 mins or more, skin to skin contact). This, of course, depends on parents moving quickly, maintaining a distance, using strict hygiene measures if coughing or sneezing and avoiding any close contact. The wearing of face masks is not usually enforced in open outside spaces but we will take this step if we consider our preferred system of mutual trust and individual responsibility is not respected sufficiently given the current situation.

Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks you to move on more quickly. Please remember that Y3 and Y4 can exit through the school office in the afternoons. Please try and encourage your child to enter or wait without you – there are always staff around. Please keep to your entry and exit windows.

Changes in lockdown period

- Year group bubbles are being protected as much as possible with only a few key staff moving between them following strict hygiene and distancing measures
- External lettings are all cancelled.
- After school clubs, with the exception of Kidz Enterprise which provides child care, will close.
- Face to face meetings are not happening unless there is no alternative and they are necessary for the child
- Classrooms and other spaces are ventilated as much as possible with windows or doors open and then fully opened when children are not there

Keeping positive

The lockdown measures and concern about rising cases puts pressure on us all. We know how important school is to our pupils and we want to keep their day and their calendar as normal and cheerful as possible:

- Children in Need next Friday will allow children to demonstrate their support by wearing their own clothes and donating to this amazing charity
- Christmas Jumper Day will brighten up the school – details to follow
- Christmas parties will still go ahead
- Christmas carols or renditions will be recorded
- Sport and music will continue
- Twitter will continue to showcase some great learning

Key Documents:

Cippenham School risk assessment:

<C:\Users\Itehabsim\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\5PZ5X5EF\2020.09.07 bulletin 1.docx O:\Teams\2020-21\Covid-19>

Guidance

Staying at home guidance PHE:

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

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Guidance on opening schools: (please note some of this guidance has been updated 19/10/20)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Guidance for parents:

[guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery, school, or college in the autumn term.](#)