



Downton Church of England VA Primary School

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Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Families,

It has been so lovely to have the whole school together this week, particularly as our Year R children are now in school all day. They have been very busy helping Mrs Wells with some of our planters.



I would like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils who put themselves up for election in our house meetings today. They all spoke so clearly and confidently making the decision extremely challenging for their peers. They were rightly very proud of themselves after the meeting.

This term we have far fewer restrictions, than we had last year and this has made next week's parents evenings and the many wonderful extra-curricular events possible. Children are now able to experience a wider range of after school activities and team events, with our older children about to play their first football match against Alderbury Primary on Monday afternoon. We must cherish these moments, and celebrate the new experiences that children can enjoy.

I am sure you are all aware that to ensure all of these events can happen and keep everyone safe, behind the scenes we are continually mitigating against the risk of infection. This at times, does involve limiting the number of adults in school, amongst other measures. We also review infection rates within the school, to see how the return to school affects our whole school community.

In school, we are asking all visitors to school to once again to wear masks in communal areas, this will enable our parent consultations to go ahead next week.



Following a recent positive case of Covid in school and a call with Public Health, regrettably we have today asked the DPISA to postpone the school disco and the Macmillan coffee morning to a later date. This will enable the DPISA to run the event with onsite staff and volunteer support, so that a significant number of Keystage one parents do not have to be in attendance. I am sure they will in touch for volunteers. Doing so will keep everyone safe and ensure that as a school, children remain in education. I would like to thank you and the DPISA for their support with this matter, it is appreciated by us all in school.

I know that you and the children will be disappointed as are we, however we must all do the right thing even if it is difficult and frustrating for everyone. Please join us in celebrating the wonderful moments that we are able to do.

Please find below the latest guidance from Public Health which they have asked me to share with you today. Do get in touch if you would like to discuss this further or if you have any concerns.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paula Carter

Covid Advice to parents

Over the last 2 weeks we have been made aware of people in our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health Wiltshire. 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.

Students and staff who have tested positive are isolating. The small number of children who have been identified as contacts of the confirmed case will have guidance from NHS test and trace and will be advised to take a PCR test. Outbreak control measures are also in place and being kept under review.

The school remains open and, providing your child remains well, they can continue to attend school as normal. We will keep this under review.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, you should organise for your child to be tested via the [NHS online portal](#) or by calling 119. They should isolate until you receive the test results giving the all clear.

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)



For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading

We are keen to ensure education can continue; and we wish to advocate the following things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

- **get vaccinated** – everyone aged 18 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) now and 16-17 year olds are being offered 1 dose of the vaccination by 23 August
- **if you're symptomatic** -Isolate and get PCR test
- **if you think you are a close contact** -get a PCR test
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
- 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
- **consider your social contacts** – every contact carries a COVID risk, even with vaccinated people so:
 - consider whether to meet up at all
 - meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
 - open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
 - wear a face covering if aged 11 and over when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

and

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

