



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Dear Parents,

We have already completed our first full week back at school and the children have thoroughly impressed us with how well they have settled and how well they are all engaging in their learning. The start of term has been fast paced and has involved us all getting used to the new systems we have put in place. We have finished our whole school transition project which was a fantastic way to start the new school year and now, as of today, our normal curriculum will resume in the different classes.

Important COVID-19 information

Schools are now being advised to notify parents of close contacts if an individual has presented with suspected symptoms and is therefore awaiting test results. 'Close contacts' includes those who have been less than 2 metres away from an individual with suspected symptoms for more than 15 minutes. In most cases, this will be the other children in the class bubble and so we will not necessarily notify the whole school. However, each situation is different and there may be times when only small groups are notified or when we need to let a larger number of parents know. This is not to cause panic or concern but is to enable parents to be vigilant and make informed decisions. There is no need to close a bubble or send children home unless we are informed of a positive result. Unfortunately, the onset of the cold and flu season may mean these notifications increase significantly over the next few days and weeks but all we can do as a community is to continue to follow the advice and guidance issued to us. The current situation calls for parents to be cautious and to respond to any suspected symptom by seeking a test which will mean tests are sought frequently within our community. We will, of course, ensure that we do not disclose any names or personal information when informing others and ask parents to ensure they treat notifications with discretion, understanding and compassion. **As of today, we will send home a standard letter (based on a template provided by Public Health) whenever we are notified that a test is being sought for a pupil or member of staff due to the onset of a COVID-19 symptom.** This will then be followed up by a letter notifying parents of the outcome. **We ask that anyone seeking testing keeps the school informed and lets us know of the test result as soon as possible.**

As you may be aware from the media, the testing system for COVID-19 is under significant pressure due to the increase in demand since schools have returned. Any pupils who exhibit any of the 3 key symptoms will be directed to seek testing which can be booked online or by dialling 119. Test availability is renewed regularly so you may wish to return to the online booking periodically as new batches of appointments are released. Should you still be experiencing difficulty with accessing a test after exhausting these avenues, please contact the school so as we can see if there is anything we can do to support you further.

End of day collection

A huge thank you to all of our parents who have been so understanding with our one-way systems. It is working really well to prevent parent congestion but also to keep the flow of traffic and pedestrians moving. Please could I just take this opportunity to remind parents of the following:

- Only one adult should enter the grounds to collect the children to help us limit numbers
- Please enter the school grounds as close to the collection time as possible
- Please socially distance from other households whilst waiting for your child
- Please leave the site as soon as you have collected your child/ren
- Children should stay with their parents at all times to avoid our bubbles mixing once school has ended
- Whilst waiting for EYFS or KS2 children near the green door, please do not cross the yellow line unless directed to do so by a member of school staff
- Please **DO NOT** park across the space directly in front of the large field gate to allow space for pupils and families exiting the gate

Children leaving the site independently at the end of the day

Whilst we would advise parent supervision during collection for the majority of children, a small number of our older children have permission to leave the school grounds independently once the school day as finished. We want to

ensure their safety is considered carefully so will be trialling a small change to the end of day arrangements for those children whose parents have previously contacted us to request this. **Children who have permission to leave the grounds will be directed to walk along the side of the school building past the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms and exit via the small gate by the staff car park.** Parents of these children are recommended to park or collect somewhere in that area to minimise the amount of time that they are unsupervised for.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Wigglebugs has reopened and is operating successfully. Due to the protective measures we have to put in place to keep bubbles separate, numbers are much more limited than normal and, whilst we will do our very best to accommodate everyone, there may be times when our capacity is full and we have to refuse requests. We would strongly encourage parents who think they may need sessions to book them in with as much notice as possible.

ACTIONS FOR PARENTS:

- **Adhere to the collection arrangements outlined above**
- **Ensure any Breakfast and After School Club requests are booked as far in advance as possible**
- **Follow the new arrangements for children leaving the site independently**
- **DO NOT park across the space directly in front of the large field gate to allow space for pupils and families exiting the gate**
- **Keep school informed if a COVID-19 test is taken and to let school know the test result as soon as possible**

As always, your support is really appreciated and I am extremely grateful that our school community understands that our new measures are there to reduce risk and keep children and families as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey