



St Paul's Friday Round Up

Friday 20th November 2020

Welcome to our round up of news and information for the week.

Coronavirus Cases

As you will know from the emails that have been sent to all parents this week, we have had two positive COVID cases confirmed in members of the school's community. I know that this news will add to everyone's concern and so I thought I would share some information about the measures we have in place in school and how we respond to possible and confirmed COVID cases within the school community.

When the school began to reopen in June 2020 and when we fully reopened to all pupils in September 2020 we were issued with detailed guidance and advice from the Department for Education, our local authority and the local Public Health department. We used this guidance to complete a thorough risk assessment of the school and to redesign routines and procedures in the school in order to create as safe an environment as possible.

The guidance identified a series of protective measures which we have adopted. These include:

- **Reducing contact and mixing.** We have a strict bubble system, which keeps children within their year groups. The school does not physically come together for assembly, lunches etc. Each bubble has allocated toilets and allocated play spaces. Entry and exit from the school is staggered and dispersed. All non-essential visits and volunteers to the school have stopped. Staff on the school's gates wear face coverings and we encourage the use of face coverings and social distancing amongst parents at the end of the school day.
- **Enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.** We have an enhanced cleaning regime across the school, with a cleaner sanitising frequently touched surfaces throughout the school day. Staff across the school also clean and sanitise surfaces regularly throughout the day. Sharing of resources is strictly limited, with children having their own set of resources. We have provided each class with their own set of playground toys. Some educational resources are not in use and others are sanitised carefully.
- **Prohibition of members of the school's community attending the school if they or a member of their household has symptoms, has been told to isolate by test and trace or if they have returned from a country requiring quarantine before the end of the quarantine period.** The vast majority of our families have adhered to this. We isolate any member of the community who develops symptoms in school and send them and any siblings home. We will only permit a return to school once a test has been completed and a negative result obtained.
- **Frequent hand washing and 'Catch it, bin it, kill it'.** We have hugely increased access to hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities across the school and have built frequent hand washing into the school's daily routines.
- **Classroom reorganisation.** All classrooms from Year 1-6 have their tables facing forward with children allocated places. The rooms are ventilated.

The above sets out the main measures in place, but there are many more all set out in the school's risk assessment.

What happens when we are notified of a positive COVID case in a member of our school community?

In most cases the member of the school community will already be isolating at home and may not have been in school in the days immediately before they received a positive test. This is a protective factor.

The person with a positive COVID case is likely to have been infectious in the 48 hours prior to the onset of their symptoms. We ask the positive COVID case when symptoms first started in order to track back the 48 hours.

We then have to identify staff and/or pupils who have been contacts of the case within the 48 hour period. Because we have bubbles, forward facing seating, hand washing and all the other measures in place, working out contacts is easier than it might have been in the past.

We complete this process using a risk assessment template, which gives clear definitions of a contact:

Contacts

A 'contact' is a person who has been in close proximity with COVID-19 and is therefore at risk of infection. As well as cases, contacts must self-isolate. Contacts are defined in the following ways:

Direct contact:



- Anyone who lives in the same household as a case
- Anyone who has had face to face contact with a case, for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to
- Anyone who has been within 1 meter of a case for one minute or longer

Proximity contact:



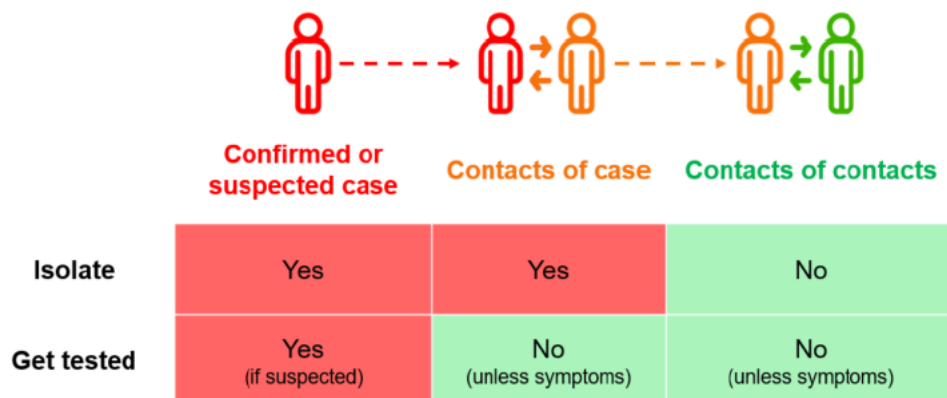
- Anyone who has been within two meters of a case for more than 15 minutes
- Anyone who has travelled in a small vehicle with a case

Contacts of contacts do not need to self-isolate. This means that household members of students or staff that are self-isolating because they are **contacts of a case** do not need to self-isolate themselves.

We will then instruct staff and pupils who are identified as contacts to self-isolate and we close the school to them. Contacts of contacts, which might include people who were only briefly engaged in a classroom or who were in the classroom at a point after the positive case had already started to self-isolate, do not need to self-isolate and can continue attending school/working.

Who should isolate?

The following chart gives a broad overview of who should isolate and get tested following a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your school. Contacts should be identified by the school using the **risk assessment checklist** included in this pack.



The process that we follow is set by the Department for Education and Public Health England. We have to notify both of these agencies and work through the risk assessment for each and every positive case. Clearly the situation can change and evolve quickly if further cases emerge, however the purpose of the closure of the school to contacts of a case, alongside the instruction to staff and pupils across the school not to attend the school if they have symptoms, is to isolate the cases and break the chain of transmission.

Frequent Handwashing

Over the last few months, I am sure that we have all experienced dry and cracked hands. This comes about due to our increased handwashing in response to the pandemic. The cold weather will further exacerbate this. We have ample soap and sanitiser supplies in school, however these are commercial grade products and may not be as gentle

on skin as the products you use at home. Please, as we are doing, remind your child to dry their hands thoroughly. Many children are bringing their own sanitiser or mild soap and hand cream to school.

Action:

If you wish your child to use their own sanitiser or to apply moisturising cream, please provide them with a small bottle of them. Please explain the need to keep it to themselves and not to share it with others, as well as using it sensibly whilst in school.

Winter Fun

Our PTFA remains active, despite the many challenges of COVID. Mrs Stead, one of the PTFA team, has shared with me a wonderful booklet full of ideas and activities to keep children entertained over the next few weeks, as the COVID restrictions restrict our socialising and entertainment. I have attached the Winter Fun booklet to this bulletin. Do have a look and give some of it a go with your child.

Remote Learning Trial Afternoon – Tuesday 24th November

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Remote learning trial. As a staff we learnt a lot about what works and what doesn't. Our Year 5 classes are currently working remotely using the Google Classroom and I have been very impressed by their approach to the learning – problem solving and engaging with the remote lessons.

We are continuing to evolve the materials that we are using and how we present them to make them as easy as possible to complete and return from home. Clearly everybody has a different IT setup at home, with different internet connections etc. The Google Classroom resources work differently on each resource, which is why what may work well for some doesn't for others.

Please let us know about your experiences. You can do this by emailing the office at: office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk – please use the Header "Google Classroom feedback". We will use your feedback to help evolve the Google Classroom materials.

Peripatetic Instrument Tuition

I am pleased to announce that we have made arrangements to offer brass and ukulele peripatetic instrument lessons for children in Years 3 and 4 in the Spring term. These lessons will be delivered by tutors from the Hounslow Music Service. The children will be taken from their usual lesson to be taught by the tutor.

There will be four ukulele lessons on a Monday afternoon, two for Year 3 children and two for Year 4 children. The lessons last approximately 25 minutes and have up to 5 children in them. There will be ten lessons a term. A term's lessons will cost £50 (£5 per lesson). Pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium will have a reduced cost of £30 (£3 per lesson). The complete term must be paid for in advance of the first lesson. Ukuleles are not available to hire from the Hounslow Music service. Once a child's place is confirmed, we will share details of the type of Ukulele you should purchase for your child. The school will purchase ukuleles for Pupil Premium children.

There will be two brass lessons on a Friday afternoon, one for Year 3 children and one for Year 4 children. The lessons last approximately 25 minutes and have up to 5 children in them. There will be ten lessons a term. A term's lessons will cost £50 (£5 per lesson). Pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium will have a reduced cost of £30 (£3 per lesson). The complete term must be paid for in advance of the first lesson. The exact brass instrument that your child will learn depends upon the size and shape of their mouth. The tutor will assess and recommend the correct instrument later this term. Brass instruments can be hired through the Hounslow Music Service. We will share details of instrument hire once your child's place has been confirmed. The school will cover the cost of instrument hire for Pupil premium pupils.

We shall open the instrument lessons booking on Parentpay at 10am on Monday 30th November. If you would like to enrol your child for lessons, please log on to Parentpay and pay a £10 deposit. We shall close the process on Monday 7th December. We shall confirm your child's place in the week of 7th December. The remaining balance of £40 (non-pupil premium) and £20 (pupil premium) will be due by Friday 8th January 2021. If a balance is not paid, places will be re-offered.

Action:

Year 3 & 4 parents - Log on to Parentpay on Monday 30th November at 10am to sign your child up for peripatetic instrument lessons.

St Andrew's Day – Monday 30th November

On the days of our national saints, the Scout and Guide associations like to encourage members of their groups to attend school in their beaver, cub, scout, rainbow, brownie or guide uniform. We have supported this initiative in the past and will allow members of these groups to wear their uniform on St Andrew's Day on Monday.

Christmas Cards

If your child wishes to give Christmas cards to their friends in their year group or members of staff, they may bring them in to their classroom from Monday 30th November until Tuesday 15th December. They should hand their cards to their class teacher who will quarantine them for 48 hours before distributing them. Unfortunately children cannot send cards to children in other year groups this year.

Contact:

To contact the school, please send an email to office@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk or phone: 020 8560 3297

To contact the Chair of Governors: chair@stpauls.hounslow.sch.uk

The office gate is currently kept closed to reduce mixing. You can call the office from the gate if you need face-to-face support.