

# OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



St Leonard's Street, Bow, London, E3 3BT ● Tel: 020 8980 3020  
Fax: 020 8980 2221 ● Website: [www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk](http://www.oldpalaceprimary.co.uk)



14th September 2020

Dear Year 1 & 5 Parents/Carers,

As you are aware we were informed this morning that two pupils (a child in year 1 and their sibling in year 5) have confirmed cases of COVID-19. The children developed symptoms on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September and have not been at school since Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

The school has now received advice from the London Coronavirus Risk Centre, which is part of Public Health England. They have informed us that it is safe to reopen year 1 and year 5 tomorrow. The reason they have given is that as the children did not start showing symptoms until over 48 hours since they had been in school, this is not classed as 'close contact'. Therefore the year group should not close.

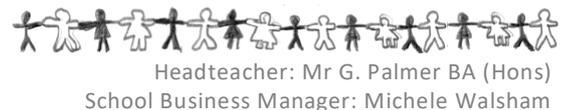
Providing your child remains well, they can return to school tomorrow. We understand that parents will naturally be anxious, but we would like to reassure you that strict infection controls are in place, such as frequent hand washing and an increased cleaning schedule, including the cleaning of touch points throughout the school day. The use of year group bubbles limits the number of children and adults that the children come in contact with; this is supported by the use of staggered playtimes so that different year groups do not share the playground. The only room that is shared by year groups is the dining hall and this is disinfected after each year group leaves.

We apologise for any alarm caused by closing year 1 and 5, but we wanted to be open with parents and to gain advice from Public Health England before allowing the children into school, in order to ensure we were not placing the safety of our pupils and staff at risk. We thank you for your understanding and support.

I have included general guidance on COVID-19 below, which you may find helpful

Yours sincerely

Mr G. Palmer  
**Headteacher**



Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)  
School Business Manager: Michele Walsham



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## What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared.
- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.
- Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

## Symptoms

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.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

## How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

### Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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

## Further Information

Further Information Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>



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Healthy Schools



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