



OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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6th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform you that we will be **closing class 1D** following a member of staff receiving a positive test result for COVID-19 over the weekend. We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England (PHE). This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

The member of staff was last in school on Monday 30th November. The small number of children who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) have received a letter informing them that their child must stay at home for 14 days.

The advice from PHE, is that at present only class 1D should close. We have advised PHE that the children in Year 1 mix within the Year 1 bubble at play and lunchtimes, but they have stated that the children in 1N should continue to attend school, as they have not had close contact with the staff member who has tested positive.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well, even if they have a sibling in 1D. PHE have provided the following guidance:

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

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

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.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

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.



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



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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 of COVID 19

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

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature (37.8C or above)
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/) website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> 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 catching the virus:

Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space.':

- **hands** – wash your hands regularly, including as soon as you get home, for 20 seconds
- **face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- **face** - face- 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
- **space** – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

Please rest assured that this is a precautionary measure and the school continues to have stringent infection controls in place, such as frequent hand washing, 'Catch it, Bin It, Kill It', increased ventilation, and the use of staggered breaks/ lunchtimes/ drop offs and 'year group bubbles' to minimize contact.

The children are just beginning to catch up on the learning missed during lock down, so it is very important that children, other than those in 1D, continue to attend.

We apologise for any alarm caused, but we believe it is important to share information with our families, to maintain trust, as we work together to try and restore the children's education at this difficult and unpredictable time. We thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G. Palmer
Headteacher



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