



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

Headteacher Mrs Laura Bennett
Deputy Headteacher Mrs Sally Wall

Bearwood Primary and Nursery School
Barons Road
Bearwood
Bournemouth
BH11 9UN

Phone: 01202 590703
Fax: 01202 590703
email: school@bearwood.poole.sch.uk
Web: www.bearwood.poole.sch.uk

Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

2nd November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you for continuing to do all you can to help manage the consequences of COVID-19 in Bearwood Primary and Nursery School in the face of extraordinary pressures brought about by the pandemic.

Despite the best efforts of everyone in managing outbreaks, South West local authority infection rates are high and under these conditions the rise is triggering thresholds for additional action in schools to limit transmission. Cases remain high in our communities, not only in school aged children but increasingly in adults too.

Public Health Dorset, BCP Council and Dorset Council have jointly agreed additional advice and action for schools so they can implement further response measures as necessary within the Department for Education's Contingency Framework. They recommend schools invoke these precautionary measures and keep them in place for 14 days after schools return to limit the impact of social mixing at half term. This will help to minimise the spread of infection and maintain consistent face-to-face education.

The impact of the measures will be reviewed and further advice will be provided to schools on any action to take after the 14 day period.

Aims of measures:

1. Protect population health and prevent widespread transmission of COVID-19
2. Support schools/early years settings to stay open and maximise access to education, learning and mental health
3. Provide advice and consistency for schools across the region

Particular measures for consideration case by case, include:

- a. Continued good infection prevention control (ventilation/touch point cleaning etc)
- b. Promote and publicise effectiveness of vaccination as best protection for all



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c. Continued efforts on testing – examples include:

- Asking anyone who is a close contact in school or a household contact of a confirmed case to take daily LFD tests whilst waiting for PCR result
- Given high prevalence it is appropriate to recommend daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace while individuals await PCR results.
- If unwell stay at home. If negative for COVID-19 individuals should still wait until 24 hours post fever to go back into a setting. Colds/non COVID symptoms are circulating but in the first instance symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and if positive, carry out isolation and testing - even if others in setting/group have tested negative for symptoms.

d. Introduction of face coverings in communal areas e.g. corridors when movement occurs between lessons (secondary/college settings)

e. Reduced mixing between groups of students as much as possible, including pausing whole school assemblies for the time being and any other large gatherings.

We also understand that parents have questions about the COVID-19 vaccination. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, please isolate and book a test, even if you have already taken a test. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

Further guidance on COVID-19 and what you need to do can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Bennett
Head Teacher



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