



# BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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*Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together*

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

## COVID CASES

As you will no doubt be aware, we have seen an increase in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 being reported in school.

We are in constant communication with the Department for Education, Hamwic Academy Trust and Public Health England to ensure we are doing everything we can to keep our school community safe. We are unlikely to be told to close classes or bubbles by Public Health or the DfE.

You can help this effort by ensuring that you follow the latest government guidance and making sure that you keep a close eye on all communications coming from school. As the guidance changes regularly, please see below for a brief summary of what you can do to help

- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 – Please arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible and keep your child off school until the result is confirmed. If negative they can return to school immediately.
- If a positive case is confirmed in your child's class – You will be contacted directly by the school if a PCR test is required (Close Contact). For all other children in that class we are asking that you perform a LFD test at home. Children can come in to school while the results are awaited. The link to order tests is below. If you are unable to order tests, please let the school know and we can give you a test, or we can arrange to perform the test on your child with your permission. <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- If you have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your household, the same guidance applies. Please perform a PCR test as soon as possible, and children are permitted in school until the result is confirmed.
- The following link provides an update from Public Health Dorset which has been sent to all schools <https://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/news/covid-19-measures-in-schools-following-half-term>



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- We are continuing to work closely with Public Health Dorset who are monitoring the number of cases of COVID-19 within school and we are regularly reviewing the schools risk assessment and will write to all parents if we need to change any of our control measures within school.
- In accordance with the local and national guidance we are continuing to ask students to continue to test twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Test. A further supply of student testing kits will be distributed via tutor groups

**Above all, if you are asked by any agency (Track and Trace, school etc) to get a test done, either LFD or PCR, please can we ask that you take this request seriously.**

If you have any questions please contact the school office and we will do our very best to give you the most up to date advice.

As we quickly move towards the middle of this half term, life within school continues to be very busy with pupils working very hard in lessons together with a number of other events taking place. At this stage in the half term I wanted to update you on a number of areas and forthcoming events.

### **Maximising learning time and progress**

We have been working hard since the last lockdown to maximise the amount of learning time each pupil is exposed to under the tagline of “every minute matters”. To support this we ask that every pupil arrives at school on time and ready to learn. We have asked that the pupils arrive promptly by 8.50am although the playground is supervised by 8.30am. In addition to this we ask that all parents support us to ensure every child reads for at least 15 minutes a day where the reading record is signed and homework is completed each week. With the loss of learning due to COVID, it is really important that pupils are reading regularly, attending school and completing homework tasks set.

### **Christmas activities**

As we see the number of cases rise, we have made the decision to record the Christmas play and send out to parents. We fully understand that this is of course not the way we would wish to present the first Christmas play for many, but we must ensure that we are doing everything to keep our pupils safe.

### **Attendance**

High attendance in school for pupils is vital to ensure they make good progress in all aspects of school life, particularly after the last two years of disrupted schooling. We are continuing to track pupil attendance in line with our school policy and will work with families where attendance falls below the required levels. Where a pupil is too unwell to come into school, we ask that you phone school and use the absence line to leave a message. This has been widely used by parents to record absences. If your child is off for more than one day please update us daily.



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Lastly, thank you to all of you that have tested, isolated and contacted the school with results. This helps us manage what is a very difficult and ongoing situation.

With your help, we can weather this storm and hopefully come out the other side quicker so that Christmas is not impacted for a second year. Something we are sure we all want to avoid.

Yours sincerely,



**Laura Bennett**  
**Head Teacher**



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