



The White Rose Federation

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Dear Parents / Carers,

We opened our doors on Wednesday morning to be greeted by a sea of smiling faces as our children returned to each school. The week flew by as we enjoyed slotting back into a familiar routine whilst getting to know our new classes. I would like to thank you for following our risk assessments and supporting us to keep our communities as safe as possible; this has ensured a quick transition from home to learning each day and the children are settled.

Over the weekend you may have heard that a number of local schools have closed classes, asking children to self-isolate over for 14 days. I want to reassure you that confirmed Covid-19 cases across each school in the federation remain at zero. Unfortunately, the threat of Covid-19 is ever present across the UK and schools will be forced to close and re-open as they follow government guidelines.

To ensure that we are ready, and that you know what will happen should we need to close our classes/schools due to Covid-19 over the next few months, I wanted to share the following process with you.

The national guidance for local outbreaks states:

Nurseries, childminders, schools and colleges will contact their local health protection team if they:

- have 2 or more **confirmed cases** of coronavirus (COVID-19) among pupils or staff within **14 days**
- see an increase in children or staff absence rates due to suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The local health protection team will advise what action is required. Usually, **closure will not be necessary**, but some **groups may need to self-isolate**.

If an outbreak in a school or college is confirmed, a mobile testing unit **may** be dispatched. They will test everyone who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their whole year group, then the whole school or college, if necessary.

If your local area sees a spike in infection rates that results in localised community spread, **the government will decide what actions need to be taken**. In local areas where restrictions are implemented for other sectors, we anticipate that education and childcare will usually remain fully open to all.

Your child's school or college should provide remote education if:

- groups of pupils need to self-isolate
- a larger restriction of attendance at school or college is needed

What can you do?

By following our risk assessments, you are already helping us to reduce the threat of Covid-19 across our schools. We need you to continue to be extra vigilant. We are also conscious that the children need to catch up and we need your support to continue with the learning that we set, including remote learning.

If you, or any member of your household, develop symptoms, do not come into school. Start self-isolation immediately and alert school using our new email address for Covid concerns –

covid@wrfed.co.uk

This is an email address that can be viewed out of hours when school is closed and will be used as a central email address for all 3 schools. Please report: who has symptoms and what they are, when they started, if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive. We will contact you by either phone or email.

Please do not send your child to their nursery, childminder, school or college if:

- **they are showing coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

- **someone in their household is showing symptoms**

Arrange a test if you or your child develops symptoms. Inform your nursery, childminder, school or college of the results. If the test is positive, follow guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

Please do not share outcomes on social media before telling the school. The impact of this is stressful for the schools and wider community.

Using the above guidance, if we need to close, we will:

- Contact the local health protection team to inform them of a positive outbreak at school and follow their guidance
- If we are required to close the school/classes, we will contact parents of the children in the affected class/es and ask you to collect your child and self-isolate for 14 days
- Deep clean the classroom/s
- Support families to access tests if necessary
- Provide online learning using Seesaw/Office 365 for our older children as we look to trial virtual learning using TEAMS

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne MacDonald
Executive Headteacher