



Headteacher
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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful half-term break.

I am sure you will be experiencing a range of emotions hearing the Prime Minister's announcement of a second Lockdown. I am aware that this will be particularly challenging for many in our community before we return to our new 'normal'.

I was pleased to hear that schools will remain open during this period. I believe that this is the best place for our students and will help to maintain some sense of normality.

I want to assure you that we will continue to do all we can to make Heston Community School a safe place. We have been extremely impressed with our newly appointed cleaning company. Furthermore, the School continues to invest heavily in additional measures to keep the School COVID secure. Students are regularly reminded of the importance of handwashing and we ensure that anti-viral hand gel is available in every room and shared space throughout the School.

We will continue to teach children in 'Year Group bubbles' and encourage the wearing of masks. This will help reduce the need to send home large groups of students in the event of confirmed cases. Unfortunately, given the rising numbers, both locally and nationally, it is unrealistic to expect that this will not happen at some stage.

How can you help?

- Washing hands regularly
- Social distancing where possible and wearing face coverings in all communal settings
- Carrying multiple spare masks [these need to be viewed as part of our uniform]
- Remaining at home if you have undertaken a COVID test until it is confirmed negative.

These simple actions are by far the most effective ways to keep all our community healthy.

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of the following symptoms. **If your child displays any of these symptoms, you must not send them to school:**


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

This is also the case if a member of your family or a direct contact has any of these symptoms. Your child must not come into school until the family member with symptoms has been tested and a negative result has been given.

Finally, unlike the last lockdown period, attendance in school is statutory and children are expected to be here every day.

Stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully



M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher