



# MANOR COURT Community Primary School

*incorporating* Manor Court Early Years Centre

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

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Thursday 21st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Reference: Increased positive cases of coronavirus within South-Somerset and Chard**

We are writing to inform you of the increasing number of positive cases of Coronavirus within schools at the moment. This increase is happening in schools nationally and, more worryingly, locally and seems to be passing from children of all ages to their siblings.

This week we have children and staff isolating at home as a result of a positive PCR test or waiting for a PCR test result. Mr Talmage has spoken to Public Health England and they confirm that the measures in our school, and those that are about to be introduced, are sufficiently robust. However, we anticipate that next week during half term a greater number of children will mix socially and that the number of confirmed covid cases is likely to increase considerably on our return to school.

We do not wish to be in a position (like some local schools) that we are required to shut year groups or not have adequate staffing levels to maintain safe levels of staffing. We acknowledge that we need to take decisive action and act now before it is too late.

During the half term holiday each area within the school will be deep cleaned using our Numatic NHS grade deep cleaning machine.

### **Covid restrictions and safety measures from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

At this current time, we are not reverting to the full extent of our successful lockdown restrictions. However, we will evaluate what measures to impose on a weekly basis (depending on the number of cases confirmed in the local community, Holyrood Academy and within our own school). We will be making the robust changes below from Monday 1st November.

### **From Monday 1st November, please note the following updated guidance:**

1. All after school enrichment clubs will stop for the first two weeks back after the half term holiday. This will provide time for us to assess the number of coronavirus cases locally.
2. All staff will continue to complete a LFT on a daily basis and will immediately book a PCR test if this LFT is positive.
3. Paid for Breakfast and After school wraparound care will continue to enable parents to go to work.
4. All lunches (hot meals provided by Aspens and packed lunches) will be eaten in the classrooms, limiting the mixing of children in different year group bubbles.
5. The playground will revert to zones to limit year group bubbles from mixing in school time.
6. School Assemblies will continue to be held online.
7. Mask wearing for adults is required at all times within the school building (when not in their bubble) and on the school premises, including the playground and all outside areas.
8. Adults are expected to wear a facemask at all times whilst on the school premises, including the playground and all outside areas, during drop off and collection time. If parents do not wear a mask and maintain, in our opinion, sensible social distancing at drop off and collection times, we will revert to staggered starts and end of the days with immediate effect the next day.
9. Once parents have dropped off their children, they must not congregate outside the school gates and should leave the vicinity of the school.



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10. In the morning the school gates will open at 08:30 and will close at 08:50. We would prefer that children arrive between this time and walk to their classrooms unsupported or with the support of their older sibling if this is age appropriate for your child. It is hoped that this will limit large numbers of children and parents congregating at the start of the day and avoid the need to go to staggered starts.
11. At the end of the school day the gates will open at 15:10 and close at 15:30. Parents are required to collect their child promptly at the set time and we would prefer that children walk to their parents unassisted or with the support of their older sibling if this is age appropriate for your child.
12. If children or staff have obvious symptoms of coronavirus they will be sent home immediately.

It is not currently our intention to limit school trips, or our excellent enrichment school curriculum offer (apart from the after-school enrichment clubs for the initial two weeks). Keeping these opportunities for the children is an important aspect of our school value and culture.

## Guidance from Public Health England

### What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

However mild the symptoms, please book a PCR test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken an LFD test). 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.

You can book a test here [Testing for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or by calling 119.

If the test result is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free for at least 24 hours (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol).

If the test result is positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days (from when symptoms started, or from the date of the test). Members of your household who have been fully vaccinated (at least 14 days earlier), are medically exempt from vaccination or under the age of 18 years 6 months, instead of self-isolating, are advised to take a free PCR test. They should continue to take precautions to protect others until the result is received. If the result is negative, they can resume normal activities. If the result is positive they must isolate for 10 days. This starts either from the test date, or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.

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

Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

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

### How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19.

- Wash your hands with soap and water often – for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- Bin used tissues immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Ventilate indoor spaces as well as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: [www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results](https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results)

Please also remember to follow the guidance issued on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October which states that all children and staff should isolate if:-

- They are LFD positive and have symptoms (presumptive positive even if PCR is negative) – 10 days isolation.

A PCR test should always be booked in order to confirm the LFD result. However, if there is a positive LFD test and the person has symptoms, or if they have repeated positive LFD tests, then the individual is presumed positive, even if this is contradicted by the PCR test result.

- They are a household contact (parent, sibling, spouse etc.) of someone who has tested PCR or LFD positive or presumptive positive until they have a negative PCR test result.

**For further information**, please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)

Thank you for supporting us in these actions.

Yours sincerely



Mr Luke Talmage  
Head Teacher



Mr Alan Clode  
Deputy Head and Inclusion Leader