

Maiden Beech Academy

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Dear parents and carers,

IMPORTANT: Potential positive COVID-19 cases at Maiden Beech Academy

We were advised this morning that a child in Year 6 has tested positive on a lateral flow test (LFT) home testing kit administered by his parent. The child concerned has subsequently completed a PCR test, and we are awaiting this test result, which will be used to confirm whether or not this is treated as a positive case of CoVID-19.

A member of staff, who works closely with the above child's tutor group, also tested positive on a lateral flow test and, again, we are now waiting for a PCR test outcome to confirm.

Following discussion with Public Health England (PHE), we have taken the following precautionary action today to mitigate the potential risk of transmission:

- Sent home all children in the child's tutor group and maths group (two separate social bubbles) to self-isolate awaiting the PCR test outcome.
- Sent home any children that had close contact with the member of staff concerned, using the criteria in our School Reopening Plan.
- Asked all staff who have taught the affected tutor group in the past 48 hours to undertake a LFT.

Whilst I fully understand this will cause anxiety amongst the school community, I can assure you all necessary steps are being taken to minimise risk to others, and all advice and guidance is being strictly adhered to.

Those children sent home today to self-isolate should only return to school on Monday (29th March) if we confirm it is safe to do so, following receipt of the above PCR test results. We will update all parents using the following:

- Text/SMS message
- Alert on the Parent Portal and/or a follow up letter
- Announcement on the Academy website: www.maidenbeech.net
- Announcement on social media via the official Maiden Beech Academy Facebook page.

We would advise all parents to check for updates in case we are made aware of any further cases over the weekend

PHE have confirmed that there are a number of cases in the Crewkerne area; therefore, it is extremely important that we remain vigilant and strictly follow lockdown rules to protect our community.

Today, we reminded the children to be mindful of social distancing and mixing with children



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outside of their year group bubble. We also reminded the children that they should not be congregating in places such as the recreation ground at Henhayes and/or Happy Valley. Sadly, we have received reports that this may be happening.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119 .

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Remember, for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

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:

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this 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
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Best wishes and stay safe



Carl Winch

Head teacher

