



Harleston CE Primary Academy

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Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

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Dear Families,

Firstly a warm welcome back for the start of the Autumn Term 2021. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all next week once the children return to school and to feel part of the Harleston community. I feel very privileged to have been chosen to help lead the school and to build on all of the hard work that has already taken place.

I will send a newsletter out at the beginning of next week to introduce myself more fully but I thought it would be helpful to go over a few key points ahead of the children returning on Monday morning. As Mr Carter put in a newsletter at the end of last term, the drop-off and pick-up routines remain the same as they were last term and we will review these over the course of the first few weeks. However, the 'window' for dropping off will be 8.45am to 9am and 3.00pm to 3.15pm for pick-up. We will of course be monitoring this and will let you know if any amendments need to be made.

In light of Government guidance, there are a number of changes to school routines and systems from those that operated last term. There is no longer a need for pupils to be in 'bubbles', which will have an impact on lunches, playtimes and collective worship, though this remains under regular review. The rules around close contacts and self-isolation have also changed (please see information below) and the use of face masks for staff are no longer required. The easing of these restrictions will create a greater sense of 'normality' but we are mindful as a school community that Coronavirus hasn't gone away so there is a need for schools to follow basic measures to avoid the spread of the virus:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools.
2. Ensuring good hygiene, including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes.
4. Keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.
5. Following public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Keeping children and staff safe is of course our priority and we will review our provision on a weekly basis, taking into account the local and national picture. We will introduce measures based on our experiences last year, should the need arise.

- **Uniform first day** For week commencing 6th September all children should wear school uniform each day. PE lessons will commence the following week. Last year children came to school wearing their PE kits on the days that they had PE. We will keep this routine in place at least until October half term. If we do decide to change this afterwards then of course we will let you know.

The children will not need to bring any stationery into school with them at the start of term. They will be provided with pencils, pens, rulers etc. It is a sensible measure to manage the flow of items from home to school and the children have everything they need here. They can bring a water bottle from home and we do encourage the children to drink regularly.

Pedestrian entry and exit of the school will remain the same as last year. As a reminder, entrance to the school is via Gate B for Nursery, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and siblings should enter via the road crossing patrol gate and the large double gates on Redenhall Road. Parents should exit the site using the one-way system ie, via the staff car park to Gate A and using the car park gate.

We all hope that we can have as uninterrupted a school year as possible and we will communicate any updates on a regular basis to you.

Many thanks and I look forward to meeting you all next week.

Mark Carlyle

Head of School

Guidance on what to do if someone tests positive or has symptoms? Do they need to isolate?

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 either according to a PCR test or a lateral flow device test – this means you have the virus. If you get a positive LFD test you should book a PCR test. **A negative PCR test will override a positive LFD test.**
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – see below if this applies to you)
- you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive – [find out what to do if you're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or the NHS COVID-19 app](#).

Pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR or Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test.

If they develop symptoms or get a positive LFD test they should book a PCR test. **A positive PCR test cannot be overridden.** If a pupil is asked to get a PCR test as a result of contact with a positive case they may continue to attend education until they get the result of their PCR back.

And what will happen for people who have been in contact with positive cases?

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons.

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate while awaiting the PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

If none of the above applies, people should self-isolate [as per the instructions from NHS Test and Trace](#).

