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Community Primary School

'To be the best we can be.'

www.springhillschool.co.uk

Acting Head Teacher: Mr G Ellis

Tuesday 13th October 2020

UPDATED GUIDANCE - COVID

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the announcement yesterday of the government's new 3 Tier system.

Accrington has been placed in the "High" alert category. All areas at this level should adhere to the guidance set out. We have included a poster with this letter which tells you what the guidance and rules are for Accrington.

Nationally, the country is at a crucial moment. Locally, we can see an increase in cases. See below (*Source: NEU Website*)

COVID rate around school ⓘ



Data updated weekly: Friday 9th October 2020 ⓘ

What does all this mean for my child and for the school?

You will be aware that the school has been impacted by a positive COVID-19 cases on one occasion in September, where a whole classes was closed for 14 days. In addition, we have also had individual pupils who have been forced to self-isolate due to being a contact of someone with COVID-19. Each time cases like these arise, children miss out on their face to face education.

With the rise in cases locally, we may see an increase in class closures.

Children are sent home to self-isolate when they become a **direct / close contact**.

A **direct / close contact** is considered to be:

- being coughed on, or
- having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre, or
- having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact, or
- travel in a small vehicle with the case, or
- any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
- extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case

Put simply, the more direct / close contacts you and your household have, the more chance you have of contracting the virus and transmitting it to others.

If your child receives a positive test for the virus, in most cases, the whole class will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days at home. Legally, you must self-isolate and can be fined for not doing so. Self-isolation means that you and your family are not permitted to leave your home or garden for 14 days.

What we are asking you to do and why

Your children need to be in school so we can help them to catch up on the months they have missed. We want to keep as many classes in school, for as long as we can. To do this, we need the support of the whole school community. Our staff are being extremely cautious both during the school day, and in their social / external contacts, in order that they do everything to avoid compromising classes,

- **Stick to the guidance- in particular, do not mix households**
- **Maintain social distancing- keeping 2m apart will mean you are unlikely to become a contact. It will also reduce your chances of getting the virus.**
- **If you are directed to self-isolate, do so.**

I am optimistic that if the school community stick to the rules and guidance, we will be able to maintain more face to face teaching of classes, for longer.

Please take a good look at the poster we have attached. Share it with your wider family and friends and, with your children.

I would like to acknowledge and say thank you for the continuous support and understanding of the parents and carers who have experienced disruptive class closures.

Yours Sincerely

Mr G. Ellis
Acting Headteacher

VERY HIGH

HIGH

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

HIGH

MEDIUM

Social Contact



1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.

Weddings and Funerals



Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.

Overnight Stays



Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.

Working from home guidance



Work from home where possible.

Shopping and Retail



Open.

Leisure and gyms



Open.

Hospitality



Open with some restrictions including 10pm closing time and table-service only.

Entertainment and tourist attractions



Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.

Education



Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.

Healthcare Services



Open.

Residential Care



Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.

Travel and Transport



May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.

Sporting Activity



Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).

Worship



Open, subject to social contact rules.

Childcare



Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.

Youth Clubs and Activities



Permitted.

There are three simple actions we must all do to keep on protecting each other:



Wash hands
keep washing your hands regularly



Cover face
wear a face covering in enclosed spaces



Make space
stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus