



COVID Response News

What precautions are in place at Hazel Oak?

From today we are expecting all pupils in school every day. Thank you for your understanding on arrival today. Our detailed risk assessment covers all aspects of our control measures to reduce exposure to the virus and to maintain standards of health and safety. The notes below highlight the areas that families should be aware of:

- Everyone in the extended school community should be aware of the **COVID-19 symptoms** and what to look out for:
 - *New persistent cough*
 - *High temperature*
 - *Loss or change in your normal sense of taste or smell*
- Any pupil or adult must not enter the school if they are displaying any of the above symptoms. If symptoms present during the day, families will be notified and the pupils isolated within a ventilated room in school until they are collected. Supervising staff will wear PPE.
- **Hand washing more often than usual:** all pupils and staff wash hands at regular intervals throughout the day using soap and warm water. Hand sanitiser is also available in addition but always used with adult supervision.
- **Respiratory hygiene:** 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' is used as a mantra for using tissues and disposing of them appropriately after sneezing or coughing, in all areas of the school. All pupils and staff are reminded to use the crook of their elbow if a tissue is not available. Safer hygiene is also supported with ventilation in all rooms, opening windows and doors to create air flow.
- **Use of PPE:** Staff wear PPE, consisting of surgical face mask, gloves and apron to undertake any personal care needs for pupils. Pupils requiring feeding support will also be supervised with PPE where appropriate.
- **Face coverings / masks** in school: Pupils and staff are permitted to wear face coverings where and when they feel the need to. As a specialist setting we have not currently decided to enforce this due to the range of pupil needs. Pupils are advised to wear masks on transport and especially if they use public transport.

- **Visitors in school:** Currently we are only accepting medical staff and contractors on site and will be working with other key professionals where the risk assessment allows and where need for their services is greatest. In all cases visitors must wear masks when moving around and will be allocated working spaces at times that limit contact with the main school population. All visitors must leave contact details for the test and trace system.
- **The NHS Test and Trace service** will help to control the rate of reproduction (R), reduce the spread of the infection and save lives. By playing your part through the actions set out below, you will directly help to contain the virus by reducing its spread. This means that, thanks to your efforts, we will be able to go as far as it is safe to go in easing lockdown measures.

Playing your part:

- if you develop symptoms, you must continue to follow the rules to self-isolate with other members of your household and get a test to find out if you have coronavirus
- if you test positive for coronavirus, you must share information promptly about your recent contacts through the NHS Test and Trace service to help them alert other people who may need to self-isolate
- if you have had close recent contact with someone who has coronavirus, you must self-isolate if the NHS Test and Trace service advises you to do so
- if you are returning from travel abroad it is important to check whether you need to self-isolate

For full details please use this government link: [NHS Test and Trace: how it works](#)

- **Frequent and more regular cleaning than usual:** This applies to cleaning routines at either end of the day by our team of cleaners, with additional cleaning throughout the day by site and class staff. Focus is added to cleaning door handles, light switches and frequent contact points such as table tops and doors, also toilets and sinks, plus any equipment and toys used during the day.
- **Changing and washing clothes:** It is expected that pupils and staff wear clean clothes daily to allow for more regular washing. PE kits can be worn all day on PE days and must also be washed weekly. Pupils will not need to change in school until further notice.

The bubble system

There are 4 bubbles within school limited to key stages, maintained within their own geographical areas of the school. The bubbles have been replicated on council transport and are also reflected in arrival and collection routines and throughout the day in lunch and break times. Staff are also attached to bubbles and have limited movement between them.

Members of the site, office and leadership teams move between bubbles as a 'support team but regularly clean hands on entering and leaving a bubble space, remaining in rooms for a limited time only. The bubble system will allow us to reduce wider school closure if COVID cases increase within the pupil or staff population.

COVID cases in school

Where pupils or staff present with symptoms they will be sent home as soon as possible. A COVID test should then be arranged and the outcome email from the NHS shared with the school office to allow the pupil to return to school. A positive test result will require 14 days quarantine for the pupil and the family members they live with. You will then need to engage with the NHS test and trace system (see link above).

A positive result will prompt us to inform appropriate bubbles and to liaise with our local public health team to ascertain whether any partial closure is required. We will ensure clear, prompt communication at this time.

Two or more confirmed COVID cases within the school population within a 14 day period would constitute an 'outbreak' and may lead to wider closures.

Good to talk

Within school we are actively discussing hygiene routines and COVID response actions whenever they are appropriate. We appreciate pupils cannot maintain the ideal 2 meters social distancing but staff are working toward this as far as it possible. Please carry on the conversations at home and reassure pupils who may need it. If you feel any extra support may help in explaining the current situation, class staff will be able to support so please let us know via the school office. Overall, pupils have responded admirably to the strangest return to school we can recall. It is however early days and the imminent future may change quickly.

Home learning

We are gearing up to be 'lockdown ready' in school and would ask that you aim to do the same at home. This may be from just your young person needing to isolate with symptoms, to a while bubble closing due to an outbreak. When any level of closure occurs we will have ongoing work for pupils to continue with via the See Saw app and using Zoom video calls so please ensure if you can foresee any challenges that you get in touch. Staff will be offering support with this in the coming weeks. Whatever happens we want to keep all pupils engaged in their learning both in school and remotely if necessary.

Look out for more updates in the coming weeks.

Stay safe.

Andy Simms
Head Teacher