



Kirtlington
C.E. School

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4th January 2021

Remote education provision 5-15th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you have all had a safe Christmas break. Whilst we are looking forward to seeing the children return to school tomorrow, we have received many emails today expressing your concerns about the Government's Covid Tier 4 strategy for schools and have taken personal decisions to not return to school. In the light of these decisions, we will be offering a remote learning plan for the next two weeks which will be the same for all children whether they are in school or not. The expectation is that all children will work as hard as they can during the school day and will be able to make the same progress at home as they would in school. As a teaching team, we feel it is vitally important that children learning at home are given support to work in as structured a way as possible so that when they return to school, their learning stamina, independence and engagement level does not impact upon a successful transition back into the main class learning.

We have reviewed our school risk assessment in line with the latest government guidance. We will continue to follow the PHE system of controls to ensure that we are creating the safest environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is as reduced as possible.

Please ensure that pupils do not come into school if they have [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) or have tested positive in at least the last 10 days. Anyone developing these symptoms during the school day will be sent home. If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which states that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of your household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 10 days from the day after the individual tested positive.

In order to take further preventative measures, we ask all parents to follow the guidance given on sickness protocols. Please do **not** send your child to school if they have the slightest hint of a cold, cough, sore throat or just feel 'under the weather'. This is vital for the safety and protection of all children but especially the staff.

Ventilation

All rooms in school are being kept as well ventilated as possible before, during and at the end of the school day. Therefore, you may need to make sure your child comes to school with more layers under their school jumper should they mention they are cold.

Equipment

Pupils are still not required to bring in anything from home apart from a lunch box, a waterproof coat with hood (**no pencil cases or bags are required**). Children should now have their indoor shoes, trainers and their wellington boots in school. For the time being, PE days will remain the same as last term.



Headteacher: Louise Williams

Chair of Governors: Paul Clifford

School Business Manager: Ruth Pangu

Minimise contact between individuals

In order to be able to reduce the number of contacts between children and staff, all pupils continue to stay in their class groups and will be reminded to maintain their distance from staff as much as possible.

Face coverings

Where social distancing is not possible in indoor areas outside of classrooms between members of staff or educational visitors, staff will wear face coverings.

Arrival/ pick up times

In order to reduce contact between staff and parents, staff will be wearing face masks and we would appreciate your support in wearing one around the school site as well.

Please can we remind all parents to stay at least 2m away from staff and that all messages for class teachers should be left with Mrs Pangu at the school office station, in front of the main school reception, in the mornings or email the school office at office.3500@kirtlington.oxon.sch.uk.

If teachers need to pass on information to you at the end of the school day, they will do this by phone. During this time of national restrictions, everyone's safety is important and therefore we ask you to drop off / collect your child as **quickly** as possible. Please remember:

- only one parent should accompany their child to school
- that all parents follow the one-way system and do not gather at the entrance gates
- to follow the 2m social distancing guidance. Everyone's safety is important and we want to avoid anyone having to step out into the road in order to be 2m socially distanced.

In line with the risk assessment, where there are two or more members of staff absent and we are unable to operate safely, we will inform you that we need to close the school. Where we can, we will operate single class closures but without putting staff at increased risk.

Accompanying this letter will be more information explaining our expectations for learning over the next two weeks and how teachers will be available to support children's learning during the day.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to making this term as successful as we can.

Kind regards,

Miss Williams and the team



Support for mental health

In these uncertain times, if you feel you may need some additional support or your children do, a 24/7 mental health helpline has been launched in Oxfordshire. This round-the-clock helpline makes it easier and quicker to get the right advice you might need for your own or others mental health. This service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and temporarily takes pressure off 111 for people who need mental health care when their situation is not life threatening. The phone numbers and further information can be found at <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/24-7-mental-health-helpline-replaces-111-in-oxfordshire-and-buckinghamshire/>

Further support is available at:

Young Minds <http://www.youngminds.org.uk> - Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals. Phone: Parents helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm).

ChildLine is a free, private and confidential service where you can talk about anything. You can get help and advice about a wide range of issues and talk to a counsellor online or on the phone from 9am – midnight. Helpline 0800 1111.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/>



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