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COVID-19 Update

In line with the current national and local situation regarding cases of COVID-19, we are dealing with more positive cases linked to the school. Wherever there is a direct risk to pupils or staff at school, as a result of an identified positive case, we will communicate this immediately to those affected ensuring they isolate in line with track and trace expectations.

This will occur when an identified positive case has

- had contact with any staff or pupils in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms
- had contact with any staff or pupils in the 48 hours prior to the test (where asymptomatic)

Where a positive case has had contact with a bubble, we will close the bubble for a period of 10 days from the last contact.

Where a positive case has not had contact with any staff or child in school (for example, they were not in school for over 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms), there will be no further action required by the school.

Case	0-7 days	15-21 days	22+ days	Grand Total
Confirmed Case			12	12
Not a case	1	3	240	244
Potential Case	2	1	90	93
Grand Total	3	4	342	349

Do NOT attempt to send your child to school for any reason if anyone in your household is displaying any one or combination of symptoms below:

- A new, continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss, change in normal sense of taste or smell

If **anyone** has **any one** or more symptoms of coronavirus they must isolate with their household and seek a test or isolate for 10 days. Other members of the household must isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result has been received. If you are unsure of any of the rules surrounding the Any One Rule, please

read the letter online here: <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=7993&type=pdf>

If anyone in your household displays any symptoms, please complete the COVID-19 form on the website <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=COVID+19&pid=330&action=saved>

1. Latest Correspondence – All – Information

Keeping up to speed	
We are very aware both professionally and personally how hard it is to keep up with communications from school and from everywhere else for that matter. And, nobody has the time to search for letters they think they might have missed and are experiencing understandable parent anxiety of the consequences of missing important communications. We hope the very clear links and organisation below will ensure you are able to find any school communication quickly and easily.	
You may find the current and all previous newsletters for this academic year for reference on our website	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Latest+Correspondence&pid=176
Newsletter from previous academic years may be found at	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Previous+Academic+Year+Newsletters&pid=1007
You may find all current term correspondence for the whole school	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Current+Term+Correspondence&pid=780
Current and previous correspondence for specific year groups	
Year 3	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+3+Correspondence&pid=180
Year 4	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+4+Correspondence&pid=177
Year 5	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+5+Correspondence&pid=178
Year 6	https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+6+Correspondence&pid=179

2. Lockdown Learning – All – Information

From Thursday 7th January, these will be the key pages to guide children in their daily learning. Class teachers will be updating daily, setting activities across all relevant areas of the curriculum. We will seek to engage children as much as possible, providing email access to class teachers so that key work can be submitted, or advice sought if required. If closure is prolonged, we will set up class pages to celebrate quality outcomes from each class. This can be found by visiting [HOME > LEARNING > HOME LEARNING > DAILY LEARNING – SPRING 2021](#) then selecting the relevant year group. From here, you can navigate to each specific year group page. This will include tasks uploaded each day.

3. COVID Reporting – All – PLEASE READ AND ACTION

If **anyone in your household** has **any one** of the COVID symptoms, you **must** get tested and inform the school via the COVID case reporting form on our school website. This includes weekends and holidays; it is really important for this form to be completed to allow the school to follow the appropriate protocol and take action as soon as possible.

If any of the following are true:

- Your child has experienced symptoms
- Your child has tested positive
- **Anyone in your household experiences any one of the three symptoms**
- You are a staff member, external staff (supply teacher, peripatetic music teacher) or volunteer and you or anyone in your household has developed symptoms or tested positive

You should complete the COVID-19 online form as soon as possible

All families are asked to complete the online form on our website at HOME > PARENTS > COVID 19

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=COVIS+19&pid=330&action=saved>

If, for any reason, you are unable to complete the form with essential information please email covid@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

During school holidays and weekends only – when there is no other alternative, if it is not possible to complete the form or email and you have no other alternative, please text 07837971769

Text only, please do not call or use this phone number for any other reason, other than COVID reporting.

Please only use this number to report a confirmed positive case.

Text: Positive COVID Case (if you have a positive test result). A member of our team will contact you to get the information verbally, **please only use this as an absolute last resort.**

As indicated, it is our sincere hope that none of the above need to be used by any family or staff member. However, if it does, we expect that all members of our school community being aware of and using this online reporting system will allow a quick response in the interests of all members of our community, particularly those who are vulnerable and those with vulnerable family members.

4. Important Updates Regarding COVID-19 – All – Information

Over the last few days, we have had several important updates surrounding COVID19 and the changes announced earlier in the week.

We have uploaded information to our website, and recommend families read through the information when possible.

Evidence Document

Evidence summary: COVID-19 - children, young people and education settings

Information and evidence from the DfE surrounding COVID-19, children and education settings, including information on the current state of the pandemic, transmission rates and safety precautions in education settings. This information can be read on our website

here: <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=13809>.

22 February 2021

EAL - Vaccine Conspiracies Debunked in South Asian Languages

BBC News have issued an article 'COVID: Vaccine Conspiracies Debunked in South Asian Languages', addressing that the South Asian community has one of the highest levels of vaccine hesitancy in the UK, releasing videos debunking rumours in 5 South Asian languages; Urdu, Tamil, Gujarati, Sylheti and Punjabi.

Visit <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55864332> to view these videos if applicable.



Guidance
Keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition: Questions to help parents and carers choose out-of-school settings

Updated 17 February 2021

Contents
Introduction
How this guidance can help you
What to do if you have concerns
Questions for parents/carers to ask and answers they may expect
Choosing a suitable provider

[Print this page](#)

Guidance for Parents on Safeguarding in Out-of-School Settings

Information and guidance for parents, including FAQ's, surrounding keeping children safe during community activities, after-school clubs and tuition. The webpage is accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-safeguarding-children-in-out-of-school-settings/keeping-children-safe-during-community-activities-after-school-clubs-and-tuition-questions-to-help-parents-and-carers-choose-out-of-school-settings> or via our website

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=13810>

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please contact office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk.

5. World Book Day – Thursday 4th March – All

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 4th March. Children in school are invited to come in dressed as a character from a book; children at home are also invited to dress up and email pictures in, as well as attending their daily Teams registration in costume.

In place of our highly successful reading carousel which we cannot run this year due to COVID restrictions, each teacher will record themselves reading an extract of a favourite book. These videos will then be played to celebrate World Book Day and share our love of reading. A story will be read during the daily Teams call too.

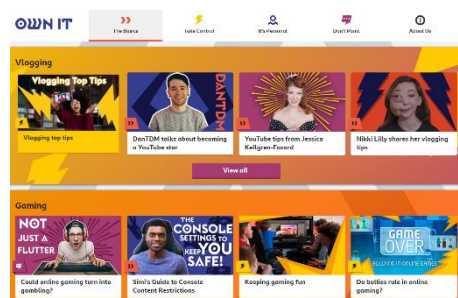
6. School Meal Update – All – PLEASE READ

Please note that Meal Selector is now open for parents to order meals for the week beginning 8th March. If your child is entitled to free school meals, they will continue to receive these unless we have been notified otherwise by yourselves. If your child has been receiving free school meals due to the current lockdown, please make alternative arrangements for your child's lunch from 8th March, either by sending them in with a packed lunch or ordering from <https://westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/>

7. Keeping Children Safe Online – All – Information

During lockdown children are spending more time online, so it is even more important that we support them with staying safe. Please find below new guidance and support to help you try and keep your child safe online:

BBC 'Own It' provides a child friendly guide to online topics and issues. This is essential viewing for children and parents and is a great website for learning how to stay safe and happy online. Please take the time to allow you and your child to explore this website and enjoy all it has to offer. <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/the-basics>



We now have a child friendly page on our website where children can get help from a range of support groups. It is important that you share this information with your child, as telling someone is the first step towards solving online problems.

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Ask+For+Help&pid=1294&action=saved>



Remember to visit our E-Safety page for further support and guidance:

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=E+%2D+Safety&pid=238>

During lockdown, SafeToNet are offering free memberships to their app which uses word recognition and word patterns to identify potential risks to children within online communication. SafeToNet is an app for parents which can help safeguard children from online risks such as cyberbullying. It also provides well-being exercises for children targeting stress, fear and anxiety. If you register before 30th April 2021, the app is free for life. Please find more details on the SafeToNet website.

<https://safetonet.com/landing-pages/covid/>



8. School Dog in Training – All – Information

Please welcome Gryff, a black Labrador puppy, who is being introduced to the school at the moment with a view to training to become the school dog – you may see him around school in the near future.

With the recently reported negative effects on children’s mental health of COVID-19 lockdowns and the potential unknown effect in the future, the school have been working hard to find ways to support the children’s health and wellbeing. A school dog is one area that will be investigating to help children regulate their feelings and behaviours. We also had several requests for a school pet via the pupil wellness questionnaire!

Gryff is Mr Yelling’s pet and will be helping the pastoral team with their role – he is looking forward to meeting new people and learning his job. He is only nine months old at the moment, so we will be introducing him to school and to his new duties slowly. It is possible that your child may not meet him for a while, but we wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about these exciting plans and explain why there is a dog on site.



If your child has a phobia of dogs, please let us know so that we can add them to a list of children to work with in the long-term to reduce their fear and anxiety towards dogs. If you would prefer that your child does not interact with Gryff for any reason, please also contact us. Please send an email (or phone the school office) to Mr Yelling – cyelling@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk – stating your child’s name, class and the relevant information we need to be aware of.

9. Fundraising – All – Information

Did you know that you can help raise funds for Chesswood every time you shop online?

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Whenever you buy anything online you could be raising FREE donations for **Friends of Chesswood School** with easyfundraising.

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won’t cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.

All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofchesswoodschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you’ve checked out, the retailer will make a donation to Friends of Chesswood School at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges.

Throughout the Chesswood community these donations could really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we’d really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It’s completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofchesswoodschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1

10. Is Your Child Worried About Returning to School? – All

As the return to school approaches, the prospect of coming back may be daunting, especially after the experience of lockdown. Some children may have spent extended periods shielding, isolated from their friends and family. Even those viewing the return with anticipation and excitement may also suffer with underlying worries and anxiety. We have put together some tools to help you support your child with any worries, including social stories, action plans and activities to support your child to express how they are feeling. They can be found on the Chesswood website Pastoral page Pastoral > Child and Family Support > Worries about returning to school <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Worries+about+returning+to+school&pid=1084>

A form titled "My Return to School Support Plan". It has several sections with icons: "What I am worried about" (sad face), "What I am looking forward to" (smiley face), "What I am worried about" (sad face), and "What I can do to feel better" (smiley face). There are also sections for "What I can speak to my key adult" and "What I can do to get used to school".A form titled "Going back to school". It has sections: "You will need" (with a list of items), "I am looking forward to" (with a list of activities), "I am worried about" (with a list of concerns), and "What I can do to feel better" (with a list of coping strategies). It also includes a "Golden Rules for Choosing a Good Solution" section.

11. What Are Young Carers? – All – Information

Young carers are under 18 and help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or drug or alcohol problem. This could be a grandparent, parent or sibling and includes extra jobs in the home, physical help and giving emotional support to others.

It is estimated that there are around 700,000 young carers in the UK, many young carers have to provide emotional support to family members in need. Some young people cope well with caring, especially if they have support from other family members, but it's still important that they are looked after too. Young carers attendance at school can be affected because of their role. Organisations set up to help young carers have people and strategies to support.

Getting an assessment is the best way to find out what's available in your situation. If you would like help to access support or to check if a child meets the criteria, please contact Sharon Main at smain@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/>



[Being a young carer: your rights - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/support-and-benefits-for-carers/being-a-young-carer-your-rights/)

You're a young carer if you're under 18 and help to look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem.

www.nhs.uk

12. Sussex Teacher of the Year Awards 2021 – All – Information

Nominations are now open for the Sussex Teacher of the Year Awards 2021!

This has been a difficult year to say the least, but out of this situation we have seen heroes come to the fore; staff of the NHS and care workers have quite rightly received the accolades and publicity they deserve for their amazing efforts but there are many other heroes too. Staff in the education sector have been working tirelessly to ensure children are taught, fed, inspired, and motivated.

The KM Charity Team deliver the Teacher of the Year Awards and we would like to spread the word to everyone in the school community to nominate a member of Chesswood. This is not a popularity contest; it isn't measured on the number of votes but instead a panel of judges read the content of every entry and have the difficult decision of selecting the winners.

Please, spend 5 minutes completing the online nomination form to enter any member of staff who has gone above and beyond this year. It really means a lot and will really be appreciated.

Anyone can nominate and it's not just teachers who are recognised – these awards celebrate every role in schools from secretaries and administrators to caretakers, headteachers and volunteers. Not everyone can win but all nominees receive notification of their nomination and that in itself goes a long way to them knowing how appreciated they are.

Winners from every district will be honoured at the awards ceremony with the overall countywide champions announced on the night. In addition, there will also be a pre-recorded version of the event aired simultaneously in order for everyone to celebrate.

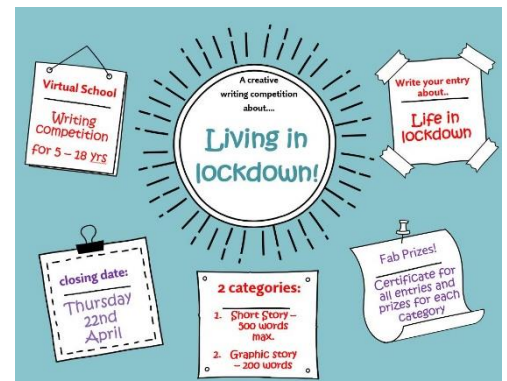
To nominate is simple:

- ★ Go to www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/awards/toty/ and complete the online nomination form

With your help we can make this year's Teacher of the Year Awards bigger and better than ever before and make sure that the unsung heroes of the past year receive the recognition they truly deserve.

13. Writing Competition – All – Activity

West Sussex have launched a creative writing competition about 'Living in Lockdown'. Entries should be either a short story of 500 words max, or a graphic story of 200 words max. The closing date is Thursday 22nd April, and there will be prizes! Email entries to wsvs@westsussex.gov.uk using the subject 'writing competition' and include your name and age on the email. For more information, visit our website <https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=14040>



14. PSHE – All – Information

Mental health is important to Chesswood, so the PSHE and Pastoral teams and teaching staff have been planning and sharing lessons and resources on mental health issues as well as providing support for the children, and families as a whole. Please click on the link below, which will take you to the relevant page on our website:

<https://www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Child+and+Family+Support&pid=655>

The West Sussex Youth Cabinet is also running a webinar for children and young people to help with mental health issues, where they can receive guidance from and ask questions of a professional who works for the Youth Emotional Support Team in West Sussex. This will take place on Wednesday 10th March 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

To sign up, click here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WAE2EMybRnub4Z2pyLDEpQ



The Year 6 children recently took part in a Youth Parliament election with 1,200 other participating UK schools, colleges and youth organisations.

Chesswood pupils voted **plastic pollution** as one of their chief concerns, so the PSHE team has signed up with City To Sea, an environmental organisation campaigning to stop plastic pollution, to find out more. One of the things we can do as a community is to use reusable bottles/flasks for our water and hot beverages and visit local refilling stations to top up our drinks. If you're interested, download the 'Refill' app, to find our local suppliers.

For more information, go to <https://www.citytosea.org.uk/> or <https://www.refill.org.uk/>



15. Wildflower Project – All – Information

This week, we received our seeds for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Wildflower Project! We will be scattering the seeds next week and sharing updates of their progress in coming weeks.

Parents and children are encouraged to also join in the fun at home!

Best in Bloom is a competition for people of all ages and all gardening abilities. Whether your green to gardening or green fingered, the Commonwealth War Graves Foundation (our charity arm) is encouraging you to take part by requesting a free pack of Wildflower Mix seeds to grow your own memorial garden. This could be a small plot in your garden or allotment or just a pot or container on a windowsill or patio.



For more information, please visit <https://www.cwgc.org/our-work/news/best-in-bloom-discover-our-wildflower-competition-for-lockdown-britain/#:~:text=Running%20from%20the%2021%2D28,of%20our%20war%20dead%20alive.>