



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Home of Bright Sparks

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Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Advice to All Parents – Covid 19 Outbreak – **Limited Community Service**

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of the current situation in school. As you will be aware through the updates, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the school, particularly over the last couple of weeks. Alongside the outbreaks we have seen in several classes, we are also experiencing a significant staffing issue due to -

- Staff in isolation due to testing positive
- Staff in isolation and awaiting PCR results due to developing COVID symptoms
- Positive LFD results in staff meaning they are required to isolate and take a PCR test
- Other sicknesses and viruses typical at this time of year
- An exceptional shortage of supply teachers due to similar circumstances in many local schools

We are now in the difficult position of not having sufficient staff to cover all classes. As some classes have reduced numbers, we will have to combine some classes to ensure we have sufficient supervision. This is far from ideal and we understand that this will mix some groups at a time that we are trying to reduce mixing. However, to remain open, this is currently our least-worst option.

To enable us to manage this in the best way possible, **we are going to limited community service** for the next two days. **We remain open for any child that needs a place in school** (as long as they are not required to isolate through a positive test result or displaying COVID symptoms). However, we are now encouraging families to **keep their children at home if they are able to do so**. This will enable us to staff classes whilst keeping numbers to a minimum. This will not affect your child's attendance data. We will be collapsing the formal curriculum to support this approach and will provide activities on the school website if families choose to keep their children at home. Please see the school website – [Learning > Home Learning](#) for more information.

If you are able to keep your child at home, **please still inform school** of this decision email office@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk or the online absence form (updated for limited opening) as we will still have to account for every child in school. Online form can be found on the website: [Parents>Attendance & Punctuality>Reporting Sickness Absence](#)

Outbreak Overview

Classes	Guide and Action
3HG	3HG, 4MP, 5ML, 6PO and 6RW are all over the 10% threshold of positive cases in the class and are therefore classed as having an outbreak. You may be aware that guidance has changed recently. The recommendation is for any close contact of a positive case to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days. There is no requirement to self-isolate during this time, unless a positive result is returned or your child develops COVID symptoms. For primary aged children LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online). However, we are aware that it has been difficult to get hold of LFD tests – hopefully this will improve to support this new guidance. In the meantime, if you cannot access LFD tests, please be extra vigilant to any COVID symptoms (new persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell) and ensure children with these symptoms are not in school and seek a PCR test. Otherwise, your child will be welcome in school. If you remain concerned, please see the offer of authorised absence and home learning below.
4MP	
5ML	
6PO	
6RW	

I am sorry that we have had to make this decision and thank you for your support in these trying times.

Yours sincerely

J. Himsworth

Jez Himsworth - Deputy Head