



Wyvern St Edmund's
Learning Campus

Wyvern St Edmund's Learning Campus
Church Road
Laverstock
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 1RD

Tele: 01722 328565

Email: office@wyvernsteds.org

Website: www.wyvernsteds.org

4th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

National Lockdown - November

As you know, the government has announced a second national lockdown. No doubt you are also aware that, this time, schools will not be closing. However, I know that some of you will be feeling very anxious at this time due to the rising numbers of COVID-19 infections, both nationally and locally. Please be assured that we will continue to ensure that your children are as safe as possible whilst at school.

At the time of writing, schools had not received much further guidance - we were promised more guidance on Monday, but I was keen to contact you before the lockdown begins tomorrow. There are a few small changes from the general government guidance on the new lockdown that we have unpicked and found the relevance of for schools.

Clinically Vulnerable Children

This information was published this afternoon:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19#education-settings>

This new guidance states:

*More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from COVID-19, even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow this advice. Speak to your GP or specialist clinician, if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. **Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school while this advice is in place.** Your school will make appropriate arrangements for you to be able to continue your education at home. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend school.*

Therefore, please contact your GP or specialist clinician to ascertain whether this applies to your child.

Visits to School

Despite not having specific school guidance, we do know that lockdown means that no one should make any non-essential travel outside of their home. This means that we cannot ask parents/visitors to come into school – please note that during this lockdown period, all meetings will take place by phone/video call.

After-school clubs

Many of our clubs are run by outside staff/coaches whose travel to WSE would not be classed as 'essential' under the new lockdown conditions. Therefore all MLP secondary schools will suspend recreational after-school activities until this lockdown period finishes.

Therefore, after today (Wednesday 4th November), we will sadly not be able to run our usual extra-curricular enrichment clubs. Schools are allowed to continue to provide wrap-around **childcare for those that require it. So, to that end, we will provide an after-school homework club for Year 7 and 8 students until 4.00pm. Please contact aburns@wyvernsteds.org to let us know you need childcare.**

We will also continue to provide the homework club for students from any year group who have no choice but to catch a bus which departs after 3.30pm. This will make sure that they are warm and dry and safe whilst waiting the long time for their bus. We are currently running curricular revision sessions/intervention classes for Year 10 and 11 students – as these are not ‘recreational activities’, are led by teachers already at school and are part of their exam preparation, these will continue as planned.

Aside from this change, schools have not yet been instructed to do anything differently because we already have **rigorous cleaning and safety regulations in place**. The changes that students saw in September to minimise any risks from coronavirus (COVID-19) will continue. The most important ‘systems of control’ are detailed below:

Hygiene: ensuring hands are thoroughly cleaned regularly; ensuring a ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach to respiratory hygiene; activating an enhanced cleaning regime to ensure that all surfaces, text books etc. are cleaned regularly and dealing effectively with children who are unwell and are showing symptoms. We will continue to ensure that students sanitise their hands at the start and ends of lessons, but we also ask that you **remind your child to wash/sanitise their hands before eating anything, after going to the toilet and at other regular intervals throughout the day**. In addition, we have employed extra site staff and cleaners to work during the school day ensuring that ‘high touch’ areas (e.g. door handles, toilets) are sanitised regularly throughout the day.

Minimising contact: maintaining distance between staff and students; year group bubbles which are separate from each other as much as possible; avoiding gatherings with different year group bubbles. As you know, shortly before half term, we also implemented mask wearing in lesson changeover times to protect the integrity of year group bubbles.

Good ventilation has been increasingly cited as a useful preventative measure so we will be keeping windows open in classrooms as much as is reasonable – **please ensure that your child wears layers** – a plain white t shirt under their shirt as well as, or instead of a vest, is a useful addition under their shirts/jumpers. Students in PE kit should now, if cold, be wearing a plain navy fleece over their PE top as previously communicated, and students will be permitted to wear coats in lessons if it is necessary. Please also pack hats, scarves and gloves for your child for social times as we would encourage students to be outside for fresh air at social times.

Lunchtimes

I thought it would be worth communicating lunchtime arrangements with you all after some concerns raised on Facebook last night. There seems to be some confusion about students not being able to eat their lunch inside. Whilst the government guidance explains that being outdoors in a group is safer than being inside, **we have both indoor and outdoor spaces for students in all year groups**. You and your child can discuss this and decide where you want them to be at lunchtimes, but we do provide both options. No child should be cold, wet or have nowhere to sit to eat their lunch. Indoor spaces are available as follows:

Year 7: Wyvern Dining Hall and the attached classroom are the indoor spaces. Year 7 can now also use the Outdoor Learning Centres (large tented areas with seating) and obviously have the field too.

Year 8: St Edmund’s Dining Hall and the Garden Room (a large sheltered, conservatory-style area with tables and seating).

Year 9: St Edmund’s Dining Hall and the St Edmund’s Main Hall

Year 10: St Edmund’s Dining Hall and the Sports Hall

Year 11: Wyvern Dining Hall and Wyvern Main Hall

Lunchtimes are split, no two year groups are in the same place at the same time, and the large areas/dining hall are sanitised using our fogging machines between year groups. All students also have access to year group zones on the field and, in wet weather, each year group will be brought inside to a separate large space.

Approach to School Life: Reminder

- **Year group bubbles are kept in specific zones** at break-time, lunch and have separate bus queueing areas
- We have a **split lunch-time** so that year group bubbles are kept separate and each area is fully sanitised using our fogging machines between lunch sittings
- **Students are only taught in their year group bubble**
- **A one-way system** is in operation across the site to allow students to flow freely around the site without congestion in the corridors and **social distancing** is expected in order to keep students from different year groups mixing.
- **Students and staff wear face coverings at busy changeover times.**

I have also attached a document that explains how we will approach **home learning** if it is necessary. From reading it you will see that we are prepared for every eventuality, and we have already been successfully supporting students who have been isolating due to track and trace alerts/unwell household members. We would recommend that you download the NHS Track and Trace app if you haven't done so already.

Please note:

If anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID 19, the whole household must isolate and a test should be sought by the person with symptoms. If you/your child have been in 'close contact' with a positive case, you need self-isolate for 14 days or until the date specified on the Track and Trace app. **Do not book a COVID test unless you/they have symptoms** – a test too early, before symptoms, may provide a false negative.

It is extremely important that you keep us updated with any changes to your contact details. We require at least two reliable day-time phone numbers. Please do let us know if this information needs to be changed urgently in case we need to contact you to ask you to collect your child if they are unwell.

Raising Concerns/Complaints

Please remember that we are trying our level best to provide a safe environment where your child can continue to be educated and enjoy social times with their friends. Many of us are now working 16-18 hr days, to provide the best education that we can for your children. We are happy to do so because we also want the very best for them but would ask that, before you post on social media, or send an angry email to a member of staff, please pause for a moment - remember that we have the same aim as you: that your child is happy, safe, enjoying school and making progress. If there are things about the school that you are unhappy about, please remember they won't have happened because of any bad intentions.

It is absolutely right that you raise your concerns, but I have a duty of care to staff too, and therefore will instruct staff not to respond to rude and angry emails or phone calls. It causes much upset for our staff who are already working so hard. We understand that this is a difficult and anxious time for many, so please do get in touch if we can help in any way, but please also be mindful of the pressure that staff are under and remember that they really are trying their best under very difficult circumstances.

Staff are always so grateful to receive supportive messages and emails of thanks, and I am so grateful for those of you who have taken the time to do this. We are here to serve you and your child and hearing that we are doing a good job of it, really lifts everyone's spirits.

NB Please note that the above is all subject to change if any guidance is actually released to schools.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Bull
Headteacher

Remote Learning: Information for Parents

1. In the case of students self-isolating for 10-14 days

A self-isolation pack will be sent home. This pack will include two weeks' worth of work which will include recorded lessons from an online school called Oak National Academy. Work completed will be submitted upon return to school.

For each subject, students will have a named teacher to contact should they need help, support or feedback in order to progress through the work during the self-isolation period. We will also make a phone call home to check in with students and answer any questions they might have.

2. In the case of students self-isolating for short periods whilst symptomatic or awaiting test results

If students are unwell then we would not expect them to complete school work whilst recovering; they will be able to catch up on any work missed once they return to school following a negative test result.

If students are self-isolating for a short period but are not unwell then they can email their teachers directly for work. A list of staff contact details is available on the school website.

3. In the case of whole year group self-isolation

For the first two days, students will log onto Satchel One (previously called ShowMyHomework) to find lessons set for them. Following this, students will be able to follow their normal timetable and we will provide Loom lessons recorded by members of Wyvern St Edmund's staff.

4. In the case of local or national lockdown in which the school closes

We will provide a timetable of Loom lessons recorded by members of Wyvern St Edmund's staff for all year groups.