



# Ernesettle Community School

Biggin Hill, Ernesettle, Plymouth, PL5 2RB  
Tel: 01752 201177  
Email: ecs@ecs.plymouth.sch.uk  
www.ecs.plymouth.sch.uk  
Executive Headteacher: Mr A Meredith  
Head of School: Mrs A Pearce



Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an excellent start to the term and it has been wonderful to see the whole school community doing all that we can to make things feel as normal as possible, whilst ensuring that we do all that we can to keep ourselves and each other safe. With the new government requirements coming into force today and the news that cases are growing both nationally and locally, we would like to refine our processes even further to minimise risks where possible.



The main principles remain unchanged... it is essential that only **one Parent/Carer** is to drop off and collect the children during the given time slot for each child and that all Parents/Carers do all that they can to socially distance on site please. It would also be appreciated if you could **enter and exit the site as swiftly as possible**, so that families from other year groups can do the same.

As of Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, we are suggesting that Parents/Carers consider wearing **face coverings** when on the site. We recognise that we are unable to enforce this but would advise it if you feel that you will be in close proximity to other Parents/Carers.

In addition...

- When dropping off or collecting your child, please be aware of other adults and continue to keep a safe distance. We are blessed with large grounds and multiple entrance points, so please do make use of the space to socially distance. We have also introduced a one-way system for the path by the

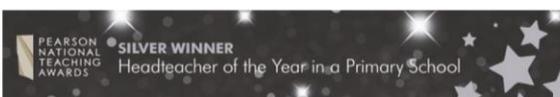
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school hall doors, so please do use the astro-turfed area or the steps and playground to get to your chosen exit.

- When collecting your children, please stand back and wait until you see your child’s class being dismissed. At this point please give the teacher a wave and step forward when you see your child.

Please also find below some clarification of the latest guidance in terms of children or family members displaying possible symptoms of COVID-19. Some of the guidance can be confusing and we only see exactly the same guidance as you (available on the NHS and gov.uk websites), but we have sought the advice of the local expert team at Public Health England in order to support questions that you have had.

### General Guidance for Everyone

1. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are still the recent onset of a **new continuous cough** OR **a high temperature** OR **a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**.
2. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should arrange a test by visiting NHS.UK or contact 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

### If your child is displaying symptoms...

At home: do not send them to school and seek medical advice as above. Please be vigilant and follow the advice above and make the best decision for your child. **If your child has a cold, as this is not a symptom mentioned above, they are able to still come to school.**

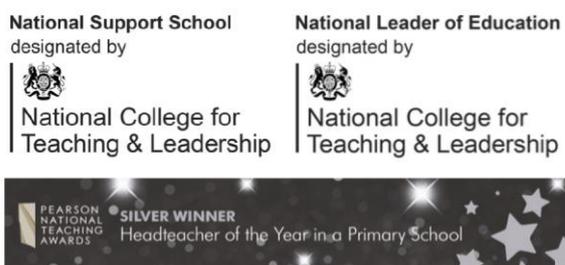
At school: we will call you if your child is displaying symptoms and ask that you follow the guidance above. If, after testing, your child receives a negative result then they can return to school.

### If someone else in the household is displaying symptoms...

Do not send your child to school until the result of the household member’s test. If it is negative, your child can return to school. If it is positive, your child must self-isolate and stay at home for 14 days even if your child feels fine throughout. If your child develops symptoms within this timeframe, they should be tested, school must be informed and a new isolation period of 10 days should commence.

### If someone beyond the household with whom you have had contact tests positive...

‘Contact’ is defined as being within 2 metres of that person for more than 15 minutes anytime from two days before symptoms to ten days after, e.g. visiting their home or travelling in the same vehicle. Contacts of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 need to self-isolate at home for 14 days because they are





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at risk of developing symptoms themselves in the next 14 days and could spread the virus to others before the symptoms begin. If your child develops symptoms within this time frame, they should be tested, school must be informed and a new isolation period of 10 days should commence. You should also expect to be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service who will also offer guidance.

Nationally, there remains a shortage of test availability, if you do not develop symptoms, you should not arrange for testing. If any family members are tested, we would be grateful if the result/s (regardless if they are positive or negative results) could be emailed to the school so that the attendance records can be updated please.

As a school we will continue to follow Government guidance and will consult the relevant authorities for recommendations of actions to be taken in the event of a pupil or family member testing positive. We will not test pupils in school and would only close a year group if advised to do so. We would notify Parents/Carers of this immediately via Xpressions.

We hope you find this information useful ahead of the inevitable cough and cold season. Thank you for your support as ever with all of the enforced changes to life in school. We are doing everything we can to ensure continuous high-quality education for all children.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries. Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A. Meredith  
CEO & Executive Headteacher

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