



Hertfordshire County Council
GOFFS OAK PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL
Millcrest Road, Goffs Oak, Herts. EN7 5NS
Headteacher: Michelle Matthews

Telephone: 01707 888488 Fax: 01707 872053 Email: admin@goffsoak.herts.sch.uk Website: www.goffsoak.herts.sch.uk

SCHOOL CLOSURE

10/12/20

Dear Parents,

Due to the current situation we have been faced with over the last week we have made the decision to close the school for the remainder of this week and all of next week (until the end of term). This is due to the number of staffing needs as a high proportion of staff across the school are now in self-isolation. We are also faced with the likely possibility that the virus could spread to other year groups through siblings. Although there have been more positive cases within the Reception setting, children and staff members, we have had no confirmed cases of any other children in school that resulted in close contact being identified. This means that children in all year groups, aside from Reception, do not need to self-isolate but must begin virtual learning from Friday 11th until Friday 18th December. We will be in touch if any cases are confirmed and close contact has been identified. Please continue to email admin@goffsoak.herts.sch.uk if your child develops symptoms, or has a positive test result so we can communicate accordingly.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and to work closely with Public Health England. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

At the time of writing this letter your child has not been identified as being in close contact. We will be monitoring this situation as the week goes on and if we are able to reopen we will be in touch, but please make arrangements for the week.

We haven't taken this decision lightly but want to do what is best for the school community. We are still working around the clock to ensure children are supported at home and staff are contactable through Seesaw, Tapestry and via email. Myself, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Fitzjohn will be working from home so if there are any other concerns please get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support at this difficult time,

Yours sincerely

Aimee Hart



What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with daily tasks such as buying groceries, other shopping, picking up medication or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the possibility of the household passing the infection on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If your child does test positive for COVID 19 would you please advise school by telephone or email straightaway.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>