



AVENUE JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Thursday 2nd September

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your children have been able to enjoy the summer break and we are excited to see the pupils on Monday. This letter is to set out arrangements for the next term. In short, we will put in place some key strategies to reduce the risk of the spread of coronavirus whilst trying to reintroduce some of the elements of school that haven't been able to take place during the pandemic.

Our key strategies:

- Adults to maintain a respectful space between each other (2m where possible).
- Maintaining good hygiene routines – regular handwashing and sanitising.
- Adults can choose to wear a face mask, although we would ask any visitors inside the school building to wear one.
- Increased cleaning routines – we have a cleaner in school throughout the day to regularly clean common touch points and toilets.
- Staff taking part in twice weekly lateral flow tests.
- Follow the advice from Public Health Authorities regarding how to respond to symptoms and confirmed cases of Covid (see separate 'Symptom Checker' document).

These strategies will help to shape how we carry out all activities in school.

As we are all aware, Covid is still prevalent and there are many vulnerable people in our school community and in our families. We look forward to continuing to work with you to help us all to stay safe and for your children to learn and have fun.

We will need to keep this plan under regular review.

Reporting cases to school and testing

- **There is now no obligation for parents to inform the school if there is a positive case in the household unless this is the child.**
- All children **MUST** attend school unless they are unwell or showing COVID symptoms.
- From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double-vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a close contact, has COVID. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming to school so long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative. However, if your child begins to display any symptoms they would need to be kept at home. Please note PCR tests are **not** the tests freely available in chemists (Lateral Flow tests).

Parents are asked to arrange for a PCR test by visiting

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Further information for parents and carers on testing is available via

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/test-trace>

The updated symptom tracker (below) will support you with making a decision about what to do. If you are at all unsure, please do ring the school.

No More Bubbles

Children from different classes and year groups will be able to share communal spaces around school although we will keep some separation of Year Groups in indoor spaces. In classes teachers now have the freedom to set out the tables in a way they feel their children will learn best. This may be different across the school but there is no longer a policy to keep the children in rows due to COVID.

Beginning and End of Day Arrangements

The day will run from 8.30am-3.15pm

Children should all start school at the same time. The gates on Swansea Road and Avenue Road are the gates that all children should use. **The main reception should not be used unless this is an arrangement you have with the head of school.** The gates will be opened at 8.30am and close at 8.50. School starts at 8.45am. **We ask that only Year 3 parents come onto the school site in the morning. There will be lots of staff on the playground to direct children where to go on the first day back. Your child should take their belongings straight to their class on Monday 6th September – they will be shown where their cloakrooms are by their teacher.**

In the exceptional circumstance of children being late to school children, they will need to be brought to the main office and signed in by an accompanying adult. Please do your very best to avoid this. The school day will finish at 3.15pm for all children. Parents can collect children from the playgrounds as follows –

- Year 3: collect from the small playground (nearest the building) near the covered area and Pirate Ship
- Year 4: collect from the small playground (nearest the building) near the railing fence and small wooden hut
- Year 5: Collect from the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
- Year 6: Collect from the Main playground

Don't worry if you are unsure of where to go – there will be staff available to ask.

Wherever possible, we would ask that children walk home if you feel they are mature enough and that it is safe for them to do so. This will help us to limit the number of people gathering on the school site. If you do need to come onto the school site to collect your child, please leave as quickly as possible.

Break times

10.15-10.30: Year 3 and 4 break

10.35-11.00: Year 5 and 6 break

11.45-12.45: Year 3 and 4 lunch

12.45-13.45: Year 5 and 6 lunch

14.00-14.15: Year 3 and 4 break

15.15: school day ends for all children

We ask that children do not bring in items from home to play with during break times but we will be expanding our range of activities and providing some resources for them to use which they haven't had access to this year.

PE

We will be continuing to ask for children to attend school in their PE kits for the whole day. This has worked brilliantly over the last 18 months and has meant that children are spending more time being active in PE lessons rather than spending time changing. PE kit should be white top, black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms. In the cooler months, children can wear an Avenues Jumper or a blue or black tracksuit top/hoodie. All clothing should be plain. Your child's class teacher will inform you of PE days when the children return.

Resources including stationery

We will continue to provide all the resources the children will need so we ask that apart from lunchboxes and named water bottles, no other items should be brought to school.

Visitors in School

We will still maintain **no visitors or parents in school without prior arrangement**, this includes bringing items in or visiting the office unless dropping off medication. However, we do look forward to inviting you in for special events where we will still operate a cautious approach with distancing in place. Please to bear with us as we are not planning to hold any special events for the first half term so we can review the success of the reopening of school.

Assemblies

We will have weekly Year Group assemblies face-to-face with children spaced out in the main hall and hold weekly whole-school assemblies virtually.

We plan to have one class assembly during the year where parents and carers will be invited in to watch. We will send an invite to parents nearer to the time, but we will not plan to do this before we are sure that the reopening of school has gone successfully and safely; this is not likely to be during the Autumn term.

Clubs

Whilst some virtual clubs may continue to run as this has been successful, we will be expanding our offer to include face-to-face clubs. Look out for this information in mid-September.

Payments to school (for lunches, trips, Music lessons etc.)

We will continue to be a cashless school with all payments needing to be made via ParentMail. Details for new parents will be sent out in the first week.

Masks

We are no longer asking parents and carers to wear masks anywhere outside on our school site. However, if you are entering the school building for a meeting or an event, we may ask you to wear a mask. Our staff and all parents and carers are, of course, able to choose to wear a mask outside on the school site.

Communication with school staff

Wherever possible, please continue to use digital methods (Class Dojo/email) to engage with school staff including the office. For the wellbeing of our staff, they may not respond outside of office hours (8 am – 5pm). If you do need to speak face to face with a member of staff, please ensure you maintain a respectful distance.

Working together

We will still continue to do everything we can do to minimise the spread of the virus, including making sure classrooms and communal areas are well ventilated, maintaining handwashing and additional cleaning systems in place. Working together we hope we can continue to minimise transmission of COVID and that we will be able to have a more settled year.

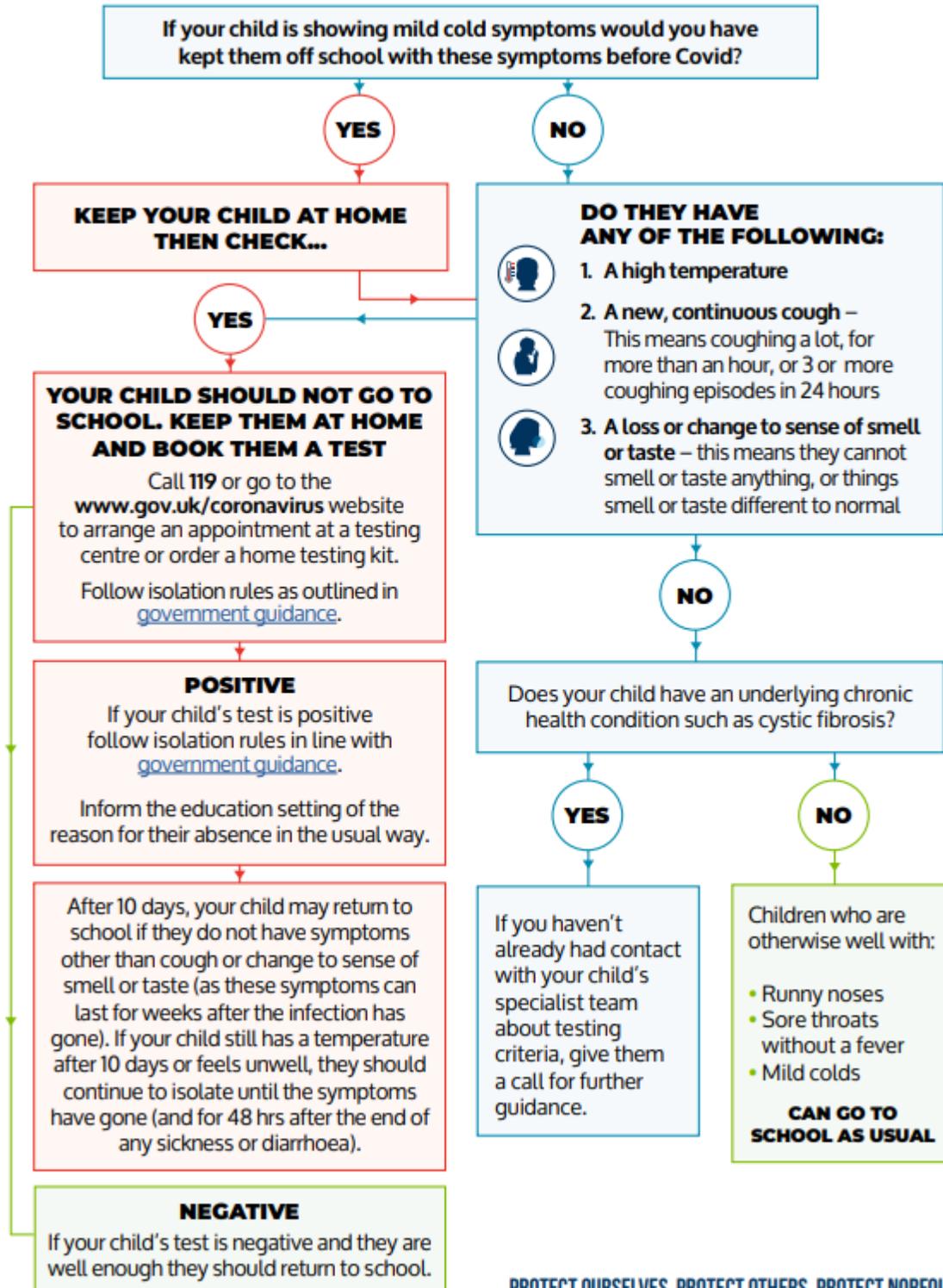
We are excited to see the children on Monday!

Best wishes

Mike Hooper & Debbie Dismore

SYMPTOM CHECKER

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD OFF SCHOOL



PROTECT OURSELVES. PROTECT OTHERS. PROTECT NORFOLK.