



# Beeston Primary School

Town Street, Leeds, LS11 8PN



"Promoting a love of learning"

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely chatting to so many parents at the start and end of the school day. The children have now settled back into daily school life and it is great to see quality teaching happening all of the time as we work rapidly to 'plug the gaps' in all the children's missed learning.

Over the past few weeks, I have been asked various questions from many parents on the playground. Therefore, to avoid any confusion I have compiled a series of key messages, whilst attempting to answer some of the most common questions. This should help our school community understand our current situation.

Please be aware that all schools in the Country are currently operating under strict instructions to follow the advice of the Government Health Protection Team (formerly Public Health England). Overall, our families have been very understanding during these difficult times and we are incredibly grateful for this.

As COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation, any guidance from school may change at short notice. Communication from school will be available on our Facebook page and school website, with a text notifying you to check either of these two platforms.

## **What are the main COVID-19 symptoms I should be looking for?**

- new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

It may be necessary to ask your child to self-isolate, in line with Government guidance, if they have:

- Been in direct contact: face-to-face contact for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, had a face-to-face conversation or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin) with an infected individual.
- Had close proximity contact: extended close contact (within 1 or 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual.
- Been travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected individual.

Headteacher Mr. N. Edensor

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[www.beestonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.beestonprimaryschool.co.uk)

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## **How is COVID-19 transmitted?**

COVID-19 is passed from person to person mainly by direct contact or large respiratory droplets. These droplets can be directly inhaled by the person, or can land on surfaces which another person may touch which can lead to infection if they then touch their nose, mouth or eyes.

## **What is the incubation period?**

The incubation period (i.e. time between exposure to the virus and developing symptoms) is between 1 and 14 days.

## **When is a person infectious?**

A person is thought to be infectious 48 hours before symptoms appear, and up to 10 days after they start displaying symptoms. If someone without symptoms tests positive then it is from 48 hours before the positive test till 10 days after the test.

## **Are children at risk of infection?**

Children of all ages can catch the infection but children make up a very small proportion of COVID-19 cases with about 1% of confirmed cases in England aged under 19 years. Children also have a much lower risk of developing symptoms or severe disease.

## **Where can I get a COVID-19 test?**

There are pre-booked community test centres across the Leeds area. You can ask for a test if you or someone you live with has any of the symptoms mentioned in this letter. You can book a test:

- by phone on 0113 3760472
- or online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

You may have read in the news that there appears to be nationally, an increased waiting period for test results.

## **Should I bring my child to school when they have a cold?**

If your child has cold-like symptoms and generally feels well, then they should be in school. If you are unsure of the difference between cold and COVID-19 symptoms then please refer to [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) where you will find an interactive symptoms checker, which will help you make an informed decision as to whether or not to bring your child to school.

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## **Has school had any confirmed COVID-19 positive cases?**

The last thing we ever want to do is send a child home from school but we do have a moral obligation to do what we can to curtail the spread of the virus. As of today, we currently do not have any positive COVID-19 cases but have pupils and staff off school waiting for test results.

If in the event of a Bubble closure, you will be informed via parent text with an accompanying letter from Leeds City Council. Closed Bubbles of pupils will need to self-isolate for two weeks before they can safely return to school. We understand that this creates a real problem for some of our families in terms of childcare, but we will seek to communicate information relevant to your child as soon as we are able to do so.

School is currently investigating ways of providing work at home for pupils during self-isolation.

## **When will after school clubs start?**

We always pride ourselves on the amount of clubs we provide for all pupils. However, next half term's clubs will be focusing on after school 'catch up' classes for pupils we feel have fallen significantly behind with their learning during Lockdown. These groups will be taught in their year group Bubbles in order to prevent any cross contamination. More details to follow from Mrs Jackson shortly.

## **Will there be a parents' consultation evening?**

All schools have a statutory requirement to report on pupil achievement twice a year. This year our parents' consultation evenings will be held on the following days.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 4pm till 6pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 4pm till 7pm

In line with Leeds City Council's COVID-19 Risk Assessment, we are limiting the amount of visitors entering the school building. This means that our Parents' Consultation meetings will be held over the phone. You will still be able to book a 10-minute slot and a selection of your child's work will be photocopied and sent home for you to use as a talking point during the meeting. Further details will follow shortly.

## **What are school's plans for Christmas productions?**

The children will have many opportunities in December to prepare for and celebrate Christmas. However due to the fact that we are expected to limit the amount of visitors in schools and avoid any large gatherings, there will be no Christmas productions or carol concerts with all Christmas activities kept in year group bubbles. This is only a temporary change whilst the Country continues to tackle the pandemic; especially as Leeds infection rates continue to increase and the rest of West Yorkshire is under local lockdown.

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## **What are you doing to help my child catch up on missed learning?**

All staff are working incredibly hard to provide additional opportunities for pupils to catch up on missed learning. We have currently applied for additional support from the National tutoring programme and Mrs Tidey is busy preparing the Recovery Curriculum for all pupils. Many of you will also know Mrs Byron, who has taught across school for many years. This year Mrs Bryon is not class based and is working with those pupils who need bespoke teaching to 'plug the gaps' in their missed learning. Further details on the Recovery Curriculum and remote learning to follow shortly.

## **Why can't I visit the school office?**

My Office Team are always here to help but we are limiting visitors into the school building. This is to reduce the risk of a person entering school who may have Coronavirus. Please email in or call the office for any help and advice needed.

You will have read in the national news recently that it is highly likely that a second wave of COVID-19 is on its way. It is pleasing to hear that closing schools will be the last option in containing the virus. Whether Leeds enters a local lockdown or not, rest assured that we are strictly adhering to Leeds City Council's Risk Assessment and that school is still an exciting and safe place for all children to learn in and to achieve success.

We really appreciate your support, trust and understanding as we navigate a complex and changing situation.

More importantly, we wish you and your family all the very best. Stay well and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Mr Edensor  
(Headteacher)

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