

9th December 2020

Advice to Parents/Carers of children in 5 Alder re: COVID-19 at Branfil

Dear Parents/carers,

I have just been informed that a member of 5 Alder has received a notification this evening from Test & Trace to inform them that they were in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 recently. Since they have been in school this week, I have taken the decision to close 5 Alder for two days as a precautionary measure whilst we wait for test results. Your child will therefore move to remote learning at home for Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December. I will be able to let you know over the weekend whether the class can return to school for the end of term or need to self-isolate up to and including Wednesday 23rd December.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are following relevant guidance. 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.

The school remains open and all children in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 & Year 6 should continue to attend if they remain well. Children in 5 Aspen will return to school as scheduled.

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 buying groceries, other shopping or 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 overall amount of infection the household could pass 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 or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

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:

Hands

- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

Face

- Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

Space

- Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.
- Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.
- Limit social gatherings (including abiding by the 'rule of 6') and avoid crowded places.

Further Information

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom
Headteacher