

Our Ref:CD/KW

Date: 3rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

This week we have moved into tier 2 restrictions in Worcestershire at the end of lockdown. We wanted to thank you for the support you have shown to your child's school and to ask that you continue to support the staff and the measures they have put in place in order to keep the school open.

The safety and wellbeing of Worcestershire's children, young people, families and staff has remained our highest priority and we continue to work with schools to review the measures they have put in place and enable pupils to get the most out of their school experience.

After a slight fall in recent weeks, we are seeing a rise in attendance levels for schools across the county with levels back above the national average.

It is vital that children and young people attend school and college, for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School attendance is mandatory so parents are expected to send children (if they are of compulsory school age) to school regularly if they are registered at one. If your child is not able to attend school because they are following clinical or public health advice, clearly they should stay at home.

Over the last two weeks, we have seen a 72% decrease in pupils and staff affected by Coronavirus in Worcestershire schools and we are extremely grateful for the continued hard work of all our schools ensuring the children and young people of Worcestershire are able to continue their education.

As a parent, carer or guardian you can continue to support your school by ensuring you adhere to the following public health guidance:

- Keep 2 metres apart when dropping off and collecting children from school. Where it is physically difficult to socially distance it is recommended that face coverings should be worn.

- If you or your child has any of the three following symptoms, however mild, you should keep your child off school and book a test:
 - a high temperature;
 - a new, continuous cough;
 - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- If anyone in your household develops COVID-19 symptoms all of the household must self-isolate until a test result is received. Please inform your school immediately about test results.
- If you or your child are required to self-isolate you must not leave your home, not even for a daily walk. If you have no support whilst isolating you can contact our Here 2 Help service at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help
- Face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils in year 7 and above when moving around the school premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.
- **It is mandatory for children aged 11 and above to wear face covering on Home to School Transport. The same rules apply for any children over 11 years using Public Transport.**

By following these measures, you can help to keep the whole school community safe, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Further guidance on what parents and carers need to know about schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak can be found on the Government website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

And finally, on behalf of everyone at Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Children First we would like to thank schools staff, governors and families for your support throughout this term and wish you a safe, happy and healthy break.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Catherine Driscoll
Director of Children's Services



Cllr Marcus Hart
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills