



9th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Update: 9th November 2020

Following our letter on the eve of the new lockdown arrangements last Wednesday, this is just a very short update about the current situation at Sydenham School.

We have been delighted that we have been able to keep the school open despite the new restrictions. Our attendance has remained strong and we are very appreciative of your support in continuing to send your child into school. We continue to implement the detailed risk assessment measures that we have had in place since September, and have updated our risk assessment where necessary.

As we drop in on lessons during the school day, it is easy to forget that the country is currently in lockdown. We've been very thankful to all our staff who have continued to work extremely hard to keep the 'show on the road'. All of this wouldn't be possible without the excellent conduct of our students, who are showing mature and considerate self-regulation around the site. Please pass on our appreciation to your child for their contribution to the collective effort to ensure the school can remain open.

In this letter there is information about the following:

1. Extra-curricular clubs
2. Lockdown restrictions outside of school
3. Community safety

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Last week we wrote to you about our determined intention to continue with our extra-curricular clubs programme during lockdown. We are enormously grateful to Ms Durban and Ms Fullilove who have updated our risk assessments and checked our arrangements with the Department for Education.

As a result of their hard work, we have received confirmation today that our after-school clubs can continue as we have planned. Please strongly encourage your child to participate in at least one activity per week. Our clubs timetable can be found at [this link](#). As always, please bear in mind that the schedule may need to change at short notice if government guidance changes, or we have staffing constraints due to Covid.

Lockdown requirements outside of school

It is extremely understandable that students who have spent all day with each other at school find it hard to understand why they should not have contact with each other outside of



school. We are aware of some students meeting with small groups of friends over the weekend.

Please ensure that your child understands their responsibilities outside school. This includes students not going to their friends' homes after school or at the weekend.

In relation to the journey to and from school this involves:

1. Going straight to school in the morning and not meeting with more than one other student for the journey to school (the only exception is when with siblings).
2. Dispersing immediately outside the school site rather than waiting with or for friends.
3. Going home immediately once they have left school and not meeting with more than one other student for the journey home (the only exception is when with siblings).

Community Safety

We have been informed that there has been an incident of a group of males intimidating students on the Dacres Road side of the footbridge which crosses over the train track. The police have been patrolling the area at the end of the school day to support the safety of the school community. We advise that parents and carers ensure that their child does not use the footbridge to get to or from school, and instead uses an alternative route.

Road safety continues to be a concern and it is important that all members of the school community, including adults, cross the road safely in front of the school by using the pedestrian crossing. Please also ensure that you don't park on the driveway to the school gate to wait for your child can put students at risk.

Finally, there was a lot of information in last week's letter, which we have summarised into some Frequently Asked Questions at the end of this letter. We hope that you find these helpful. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours faithfully

Gloria Lowe
Headteacher



Frequently Asked Questions

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What should I do if my child has Covid-19 symptoms?

If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, they 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 should 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.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of Covid-19 are a recent onset of:



- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, 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.

What should I do if my child receives a positive Covid-19 test?

If your child receives a positive Covid test result, it is essential that we are informed immediately, even if this is at the weekend. You should do this in the following ways:

1. Between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday please telephone the school Reception and inform them of the situation and ask to speak with a member of the Senior Leadership Team
2. From 5pm to 8am or over the weekend, please email covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk with a copy of the positive result and a contact telephone number. Please copy in Ms Wijnberg (e.wijnberg@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) and Ms Gostling (d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk) to your email.

Your child will then be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from the first day that they presented with symptoms or for 10 days from the day of the test result if they were asymptomatic. All household members should self-isolate for 14 days from the first day that the child presented with symptoms or for 14 days from the test result if they were asymptomatic.

What should I do if my child receives a negative Covid-19 test?

If your child receives a negative test result for Covid-19, please inform the school via covid@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk and provide evidence if possible. Your child should not return to school before their self-isolation period is over if they have not received a negative test result.



What will the school do if there is a positive Covid-19 case?

When we are informed of a positive case, the first step that we take is to identify which students and staff have been in contact with the person who is the confirmed case, either on the first day of symptoms or during the previous two days.

Contact definitions:

- **Direct close contacts:** Direct face to face-to-face contact with a case for any length of time, including being coughed on or talked to. This will also include exposure within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer
- **Proximity contacts:** Extended close contact (within 1-2m for more than 15 minutes) with a case.

The list of contacts will be sent home to isolate for 14 days.

Parents and carers will receive a letter via email, detailing the exact dates that their child needs to self-isolate for and another letter providing remote learning details. Even if these contacts are tested during the 14 days and the result is negative, they will still need to isolate as they may not have reached the viral load threshold required to signal a positive test.

In order to prevent the rest of the school community from being overloaded with emails, we will no longer be contacting you to inform you that there has been a positive Covid-case in the school, unless this directly affects your child.

What are the behaviour protocols and expectations around the site?

Alongside our normal student code of conduct, the following Covid-safe protocols are in place:

1. It is now mandatory for face coverings to be worn in all communal areas in London schools (eg. the corridors, dining areas and the Sixth Form common room). These must be worn correctly over the mouth and nose. Students who are exempt from wearing face coverings should ensure they wear the yellow badge provided by the school.
2. Students will continue to line up in silence at the start of the day and end of each break. By doing this swiftly it increases the speed with which students can get to lessons and helps to maintain year group bubbles.



3. Students should walk in single file, be forward facing and in silence on the corridors. This is so that we reduce the risk of aerosol transmission on the corridors.
4. Students must remain in their year group zone throughout their social time.
5. Students should sanitise before entering and leaving their lessons.
6. Students should not touch other students in any way.
7. Students should maintain a 2m distance from adults in the school wherever possible to reduce the chances of any of our staff needing to self-isolate as a proximity or direct close contact.
8. Students must always remain in their seat in the seating plan so that we can accurately identify direct close contacts and proximity contacts.
9. Students should always face forwards towards the dividers in the dining halls to ensure that the risk of aerosol transmission is reduced.

Face coverings and sanitiser

Students are expected to wear face coverings in all communal areas of the school, unless they are medically exempt. Continuing to provide your child with a face covering and sanitiser is a small step to helping with our budget.

We will, of course, continue to provide sanitiser at each morning line up, in each classroom and around school. If you need support with providing your child with a face covering, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can help.

Can parents and carers visit the school site?

To limit the risk of transmission, we will continue to conduct all meetings with families remotely wherever possible. Please note that during the lock down period, parents and carers should only come onto the site with prior agreement of the school.

What should I do if I am experiencing hardship linked to Covid-19?

We are acutely aware of the challenges that Covid is presenting to families whose employment has been affected by the pandemic. If you have concerns about family hardship, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Year Learning Coordinator so that we can work out how we can support you further.



What are the school's attendance and punctuality expectations?

Attendance at school for all students who are not self-isolating continues to be compulsory. Attendance is at the heart of educational achievement and central to the wellbeing of our students at Sydenham. It is essential that all students attend school every day and on time for their year group. If students are late to school, they will receive a late detention after school on the same day. The school Attendance and Punctuality Policy can be found on the website at [this link](#). The Covid Addendum to the Policy can be found on the website at [this link](#). If you have any queries regarding attendance or punctuality to school please contact Ms Skinner, Attendance and Welfare Co-ordinator: j.skinner@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

What will the remote learning provision for my child be?

Remote learning will be provided for all students who are required to self-isolate because of a positive case in school. This is based on a blended approach to remote learning. Lessons will be planned and delivered using a combination of 'Live' lessons via Teams alongside work set on Teams for students to complete independently via narrated PowerPoint, written activities and quizzes. All remote learning will be set on Teams and students will also receive instructions on Show My Homework.

If your child is asked to self-isolate because of a positive case, they should log into their Microsoft 365 account using their school email, and also check their Show My Homework account which will hold details of the work that is set. The date that live lessons will begin will be communicated in the remote learning letter that will be sent out in the event of your child being asked to self-isolate. They will need to check their Teams calendar for an invite to their live lessons.

All students have been provided with new passwords this term. We have amended our system so that any students who have not used their new password can do so remotely rather than on the school site. The Microsoft 365 password should also enable them to access their Show My Homework account.

If your child is self-isolating because they or a household member has Covid-symptoms, or there is a positive case within a household, work will be set individually for your child through Show My Homework.

What should I do if my child cannot log in to their account?



We would be grateful if your child can check that they are able to log in to their accounts as soon as possible. If they are unable to do this, please email your child's class tutor, who will be able to reset their password

What should I do if my contact details change?

It is now more important than ever that we have the correct contact details for you, and for at least one other person whom we could contact in an emergency. This is vital so that we can contact you if your child has had contact with a positive case, or if your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19 on the school site.

If you need to update your contact details (email or phone number) on our system, please contact info@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk.