



Star

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families remain well during these difficult times.

Thank you for the support that you continue to provide to your children and to their schools. Working in partnership with you has always been important, never more so than now.

As you know, COVID-19 remains prevalent and staff across Star schools are working hard to ensure that your children remain safe and carry on learning.

I appreciate that you may be worried about the possibility of your child catching the virus or transmitting it to family members, so I am writing to reassure you that rigorous measures have been put in place in all our schools to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19. Your own child's school will have shared their specific measures with you.

In summary:

- All our schools are kept scrupulously clean. Additional cleaning is undertaken daily, with particular attention paid to surfaces that are touched regularly, such as rails and door handles. Toilets, taps and washbasins are thoroughly sanitised.
- Pupils are grouped in bubbles in order to reduce the number of close contacts that they have in school. The organisation of bubbles is appropriate to the age of pupils and we are implementing the government's guidance closely. Interactions between pupils in different bubbles are minimised by having staggered breaks and lunchtimes, and by entering and leaving school separately.
- We continually remind pupils of the importance of keeping their hands clean. Good routines are in place across our schools so that pupils sanitise their hands on arrival and at key points throughout the day.
- Staff wear masks or face coverings in communal areas, such as corridors, as do pupils in our secondary schools.
- Staff maintain two metres distance from each other. In secondary schools they also maintain two metres distance from pupils. In primary schools, staff maintain two metres distance from pupils who are not members of their usual bubble.
- Movement around school is carefully controlled so that pupils are less likely to come into contact with members of other bubbles.
- Good respiratory hygiene is practised in all our schools, with the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach being used in the event of coughs or sneezes.

Despite all these measures, there will inevitably be cases of COVID-19 in schools because of transmission in the wider community, which is increasing significantly in many areas served by Star.

In the event that a pupil or adult displays symptoms of COVID-19, arrangements are made for them to go home to self-isolate. They are also required to take a test to see if they have COVID-19. If the test is positive, any close contacts within school will be sent home to self-isolate for 14 days. There is very clear guidance on what constitutes close contact, which our schools are following to the letter. Every case of COVID-19 in our schools is reported to the DfE/Public Health England and the local authority.

If your child has to self-isolate, the school will let you know. You will receive a letter indicating when your child should return to school. If you do not receive this letter, your child should continue to attend school as usual.

Children who are required to self-isolate will continue their learning at home.

The school will not inform you if there is a case of COVID-19 that does not directly affect your child. Our aim is for all pupils who are able to attend school to continue doing so.

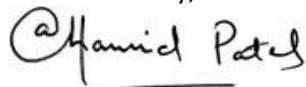
Under data protection laws, schools are not able to provide details of any children or adults who have tested positive for the virus.

We have prepared a guide showing the action that should be taken by individuals in different circumstances with regard to COVID-19. This guide, which you can read on the next two pages, aims to help you and your family to take the necessary steps to keep safe.

While schools are doing their utmost to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they have no control over how children and young people socialise in the wider community. We are relying on you to follow local and national guidance and to ensure that your children do likewise. It is clear that coronavirus is transmitted in the community and the way to stop this is to avoid being in close proximity with people from other households. I know that this is extremely difficult and affects the way in which we all live our lives; however, I urge you to follow the rules in order that we all play our part to keep our families safe and keep our children learning.

Thank you as always for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "@Hamid Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

(Mufti) Hamid Patel CBE
Chief Executive

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) ABSENCE: A QUICK GUIDE FOR PARENTS / CARERS



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	WHAT TO DO IF...	ACTION NEEDED	BACK TO SCHOOL...
	...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when child's test comes back negative and symptom free for 48 hours
	...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) • Inform school immediately about test results • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	<p>...when child has completed 10 days isolation, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours</p> <p>They can return to school even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
	...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Household member with symptoms should get a test • Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result • Inform school immediately about test results • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*
	...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days

* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

	WHAT TO DO IF...	ACTION NEEDED	BACK TO SCHOOL...
	...educational setting or NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by educational setting or NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days • Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days
	...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take unauthorised leave in term time • Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel • Provide information to school as per attendance policy <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Whole household self-isolates for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days
	...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child shouldn't attend school • Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team • Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again • Access online learning if well enough to do so 	...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again
	...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only people with symptoms* need to get a test • People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive 	...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met

For further information:
[gov.uk/backtoschool](https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool)



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