

Monday, 28 September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a real joy to be at Haverstock over the last few weeks. Whilst we are acutely aware of the time that each child has lost whilst the school was closed, the manner in which your children have returned to school has been incredibly impressive. The classrooms are calm and focused and students and teachers have been working hard to make up for the time that has been missed. We are all very proud of them.

Now that we are a few weeks into the school term, I am writing with a few reminders and have also enclosed some 'Frequently Asked Questions' in relation to our management of COVID-19.

Reminder regarding PE uniform

Many thanks to you all who have sourced appropriate sports kit for your children to ensure we all remain safe and smart this term and beyond. A reminder that no visible logos or stripes are permitted on any tracksuit trousers / sports leggings and that ready to learn detentions are now being set for those who do not comply. To avoid this please ensure you provide navy blue (years 7 & 8) or navy blue or black (years 9-11) sports trousers that do not have visible logos or stripes.

Behaviour for Learning amendment:

Our 'no wasted seconds' approach clearly needs to be applied to all of our learning spaces – either real or remote. The majority of our students have proven to be flexible, resilient and focused on taking the learning opportunities provided. To ensure best possible learning conditions for all Year Leaders will be monitoring remote learning experiences to ensure high behaviour expectations are upheld. Poor choices in any situation will result in behaviour points and a need for supported behaviour change. Thank you for your on-going commitment to working so positively in partnership with us.

As always, please get in touch if you have questions or feedback and we will endeavour to respond as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely



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Senior Deputy Head: Mark Mayne

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Frequently Asked Questions in relation to COVID-19

Can my child wear a face mask if they wish?

Due to the communication challenges of wearing face masks in the classroom, we do not currently permit their use during lessons. All members of the community are welcome to wear face coverings in all other areas if they wish and we are now permitting students to wear face shields (visors) in the classroom.

Can my child have use the new NHS Track and Trace App on their phone?

Students are permitted to bring their phone to school but are not allowed to use it when on the school site. As the Track and Trace app works in the background, students will be able to run it whilst at school without needing to take out their phone.

What happens if my child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school?

If your child has possible symptoms of COVID-19, we will ask them about their symptoms as defined by the NHS as below;

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child confirms that they have these symptoms, we will send them home and they will be required to self-isolate for ten days with members of the household being required to self-isolate for 14 days. You should arrange a test for your child as soon as possible and within five days of developing symptoms.

A negative result means that they can return to school and your household can stop self-isolating. We will send you a letter to confirm these instructions. Please note: we will not admit children back into school until the end of the self-isolation period or until we receive evidence of a negative test, whichever is sooner.

What should I do if my child or a member of my household develops COVID-19 symptoms?

The person who has symptoms must isolate for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result. Your household must isolate for 14 days or until a negative test

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result is received. Please note that negative test results are unreliable if the test was carried out more than five days after symptoms developed.

Please inform us if your child is self-isolating due to a suspected COVID case in the household. If they are well, we will support them to learn through Google Classroom where they will be taught their full timetable by their teachers via a link into their lessons. We will send you a letter with instructions.

What will the school do in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case?

We will ensure that the student or staff member goes home and does not return to school until they receive a negative test outcome or have completed ten days in self-isolation, whichever is sooner. If your child is feeling better but has not yet completed their period of self-isolation or received a negative test result, please let us know via office@haverstock.camden.sch.uk and we will arrange for them to begin receiving lessons remotely.

What will the school do when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the community?

We will ask all students and staff who are potential 'close contact' of the confirmed case to begin self-isolating whilst we carry out a detailed risk assessment with the support of the London Public Health Team to determine who is required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. As a courtesy, we will inform all parents of any confirmed cases, even if your child is very unlikely to be a close contact. Students who are asked to self-isolate will be provided with be taught their full timetable by their subject teachers through Google Classroom. We will send you a letter with instructions.

Following your feedback, we will now also explain the rationale which leads to decisions around close contacts so that there is full transparency. For data protection reasons, we are not, however, able to inform you of the identity of any confirmed cases. Please also note that we will not share any personal data that we hold on you or your child with external bodies without your consent.

I am worried about the health of my child or other members of my household, can my child learn from home and not attend school?

Whilst we appreciate the very difficult circumstances faced by many of our families, students must be in school unless they are unwell or have been told to self-isolate. As such, any non-attendance which does not fall into these categories will be unauthorised and we regret that we will not be able to offer remote learning.

If your child is clinically vulnerable, please discuss your concerns with your GP and get in touch with us if you have any questions.

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