



Loving to learn, Learning to love.
For every child a chance to shine



Dear Parents and Carers,

Reporting a positive COVID test during the half term holiday break:

The email address to use to notify us of a positive Covid case during the half term break is covid@layston.herts.sch.uk.

Covid 19: Testing during the half term holiday period.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) at any point during the half term break, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health, if required, and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and who need to self-isolate. During the holidays you should contact covid@layston.herts.sch.uk Please don't call the normal absence line as this won't be covered during the half term break.

Covid 19:

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test. Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature (37.8 deg C or more)
- a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste - this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child is attending school please do not send children in to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- they, or any members of your household, have tested positive for COVID-19
- they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19
- they are required to quarantine having recently visited countries outside the common travel area
- they have been advised to isolate by NHS test and trace or the PHE local health protection team and provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with, if they test positive for COVID-19 or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- they haven't completed the full 10 day isolation period requested

Self-isolating is one of the most important things we can all do to help stop the spread of the virus and protect our loved ones and the vulnerable. You can read our helpful self-isolating guide at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/selfisolatingguide

Hertfordshire County Council have asked us to share the following update with you ahead of half-term.

Thank you all so much for playing your part and helping to keep case rates of Covid-19 low in Hertfordshire. During half-term, and as restrictions ease more generally, it's more important than ever that we follow current guidance to help keep each other safe and our nurseries, schools and colleges free from outbreaks.

Please do not send children back into education if they are sick or feel unwell. If you or your children have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>





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Reminder of some of the latest guidance from 17 May:

- 6 people, or two households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible) can now meet indoors and up to 30 people can gather outside
- If you are meeting with family and friends, the government is asking that you personally consider the risks associated with COVID-19 when deciding on things like wearing face coverings and social distancing for both you and your children
- Restaurants, pubs and cafes can reopen and so can indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, bowling alleys, museums and children's indoor play areas. All of these services will have COVID-secure measures in place, please encourage your children to follow the rules when out and about

Travelling within the UK

If you do go away, you should aim to do so safely. For instance, one of our close neighbours, Bedford, has a high number of cases and people are being advised to avoid travelling in and out of the area unless it is essential (for work or education). You can find the latest travel guidance for England and the rest of the UK

at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do#travelling-within-the-uk-the-republic-of-ireland-and-the-channel-islands>

Travelling internationally from England

There are no longer any restrictions on leaving England to travel internationally, however to protect public health in the UK and the vaccine rollout, you should not travel to countries or territories on the red or amber lists.

If you do need to travel to an Amber destination for an emergency, you must update any setting attended by your child(ren) and:

- All family members who have travelled must quarantine for 10 days at home upon their return and can only leave home to take a test
- Paid for PCR tests must be completed by all those who have travelled aged 4 and above on day 2 and again on day 8 following your return
- Please do not send children back to nursery, school or college without completing the mandatory quarantine period

Parents and carers of children of school age are also encouraged to take regular rapid tests. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest.

Please only complete rapid tests on children in year 7 and above.

Support for families

This is a challenging time for everyone, and we want you know that help and support is available for anyone who needs it in Hertfordshire. HertsHelp can provide free, confidential advice and practical help for things like food, essential bills and emotional support. Call 0300 123 4044, email info@hertshelp.net or visit www.hertshelp.net

We hope you enjoy half-term and remember - hands, face, space, fresh air and test. These key things will help to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Have a lovely half term break.

Best wishes

Adele McMurrough

Headteacher

