



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Friday 6th November, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

On Saturday 31st October, the Prime Minister announced New National Restrictions, which came into force yesterday until Wednesday 2nd December, to control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Yesterday, England entered into a four-week period of 'lockdown'. The government guidance that was released on Wednesday evening makes it very clear that senior clinicians advise that, throughout this period, school is the best place for children to be and that schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make that safe. Childcare and education is one of the exceptions that parents and carers can leave their home for.

Guidance on the new national restrictions in education and childcare settings are available here:
www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020

I have been asked by a number of parents today if I can clarify how lockdown will impact upon different aspects of school life. Here is a summary of the aspects of the lockdown rules that will impact upon daily school life:

- In general, you must not meet people socially. You must avoid meeting people that you do not live with, except for specific permitted purposes – **this includes on the journey to and from school and on the school premises;**
- You can only exercise or meet in a public, outdoors space with people you live with, your support bubble (or as part of a childcare bubble), or with **one** other person – this includes on the school grounds/journey to and from school;
- You should minimise time spent outside of your home. When around other people, stay 2 meters apart from anyone not in your household – meaning the people you live with – or your support bubble. **This means that you should enter and leave the school premises promptly and not gather to meet others;**
- Extra-curricular activities, beyond the school day are not permitted, except for wrap around care. **Therefore, based on this guidance, our after school clubs will not be taking place throughout the lockdown period.** Any pre-paid missed sessions for any of our clubs will be fully refunded;
- **Unfortunately, as our Breakfast club staff bubble team are in isolation, breakfast club will not be running again until Thursday 19th November;**

- Parents are able to form a childcare bubble with one other household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under (this cannot change from day to day).



Please help us by ensuring that the following aspects of the school's Risk Assessment continue to be adhered to as these aim to protect our whole community and the integrity of our class bubbles.

- Only **one** adult is permitted on site to collect a child;
- Please do not gather earlier than your child's allocated arrival/departure time;
- All adults (including older siblings collecting children) must wear a face covering/mask on site (unless they are exempt from doing so);
- Please do not engage in lengthy conversations with staff meeting and greeting; please communicate via email instead if you have a query (via the school office on admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk);
- Please do not allow your children to mix with children from other year groups before or after school or on the journey to and from school;
- Please inform us immediately if anyone in your household develop any of the recognised symptoms;
- If your child is isolating, DfE guidance has specifically said that **they will not be permitted to break their self-isolation and accompany parents for drop offs and pick-ups**, which means that the parent would need to find alternative arrangements for dropping off/picking up any siblings. We know that this will bring extra challenges, but this is a key specification in the guidance. Perhaps a family friend or anyone else in your support bubble may be able to collect the siblings on the way into school;
- Please inform us immediately if you or your child has been identified as a close contact of anyone who has tested positive for Coronavirus;
- Please do not return to school after a negative test or at the end of an isolation period without contacting the school to confirm your return.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you require any further information in relation to this.

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU ARE DOING TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AND PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR BUBBLES DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

With very best wishes,

Richard Curry