

## Shirley Infant School

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**Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day**

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We know these are very worrying and anxious times with the current circumstances. We wish to keep you as updated as we can with the information that we have. We are listening carefully to the professional advice from the World Health Organisation, Public Health England, Secretary of State for Health, Department for Education and Hamwic Education Trust. As always, your child's welfare is our utmost priority and we work hard to continue to make them feel happy, secure and safe in school. We have been watching closely for updates and we are now in the position to inform you that schools will stay open if the country moves to Tier 4. In the update that came out this afternoon from the DFE it states:

### 7. Going to school, college and university

*"The Government will continue to prioritise the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and will not be closing schools, colleges or universities. It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe."*

This does mean under the current guidance that **all** children, unless unwell, are expected in school. We would like to remind you of the guidance on absence and attendance we shared with you from the Local Authority. This is as follows:

#### How should schools record attendance?

Where a pupil cannot attend school due to illness, as normally would happen, the pupil should be recorded as absent in the attendance register and the school will authorise the absence.


Where a pupil is in self-isolation, in accordance with latest information and advice from Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England, the pupil should be recorded as unable to attend due to exceptional circumstances in the attendance register.

Where a pupil's parent/guardian refuses to send them to school, the pupil should be recorded as unauthorised absence in the attendance register. Under the current guidance from Government if this absence continues this could lead to a fixed penalty notice and even prosecution.



We understand this is a difficult time and there are concerns. However, we would like to take this opportunity to reassure you we are taking every necessary step to prevent the spread of germs. We have continued to have additional cleaning throughout the day as part of our daily hygiene routines for the children and our cleaning regime within the school. All children and staff have the same expectations and we are monitoring this closely through our rainbow rules. We are working under the current guidance sent out on 22nd October.

Part of  
**Education and childcare during coronavirus**

 Department  
for Education

## Guidance **Guidance for full opening: schools**

Updated 22 October 2020

As part of this guidance inline with our risk assessment we are following the set actions that schools must take under the System Controls heading. It states:

“This is the set of actions schools must take. They are grouped into ‘prevention’ and ‘response to any infection’ and are outlined in more detail in the following sections.

### *Prevention*

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- 2) Where recommended, the use of face coverings in schools.
- 3) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- 4) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- 5) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents.
- 6) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.
- 7) Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- 8) Always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated.

Numbers 1 to 5, and number 8, must be in place in all schools, all the time.”

These points are embedded within our risk assessment which is constantly being reviewed and also regularly being check by our Academy, Hamwic. Please remember you may want to send your child in with a long white or black sleeve top under their polo shirts or dresses. We will have to keep the ventilation in the rooms though the winter months and they, like the staff, may need an extra layer.

We may need to close a bubble during the school day on advice from Public Health England. Could we therefore ask parents to ensure that school contact numbers are up to date and that parents check our website and emergency Marvellous Me notifications regularly. In the event that we are required to close, we will inform parents as soon as we are able to and also publish information on our website.



In addition to this, as detailed in previous communication's all school trips, large gatherings of people in our celebration events, whole school assemblies and Christmas productions continue to be cancelled. We are working on using google classroom for a virtual celebration event half way through this half term. We are also in secret planning for a little Christmas surprise for you all.

We will continue to communicate with you regularly just as we have previously. Thank you so much for smiles and kind comments at the school pickups. Your support and kind words in these difficult and unusual times really do go a long way.

Please keep safe and continue to follow the government guidance. If we do this, we can keep school running and we can support each other.

With best wishes,



Cate Gregory  
Headteacher, Shirley Infant

