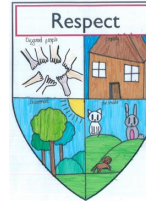
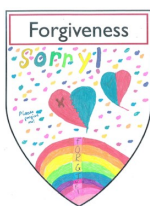


# Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

*'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'*



## Spring Newsletter: 7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back AND Happy New Year!

It has been amazing to see all your children in school this January and so very different compared to last year. I'm sure we're all really grateful that schools are fully open. However we do need to remain incredibly vigilant with regards to Covid-19. The number of cases in Dudley is over 2000 per 100,000.

We are doing everything we can in school to reduce transmission and are investigating the use of air purifiers to see if they can help. We have also purchased some additional heaters for some rooms but we are happy for children to wear additional layers and fingerless gloves if they are getting cold. Good ventilation is key to reducing transmission which unfortunately means having to have windows open.

I have attached an updated symptoms letter to this newsletter which sees a few new symptoms to look out for. If you have any questions regarding anything that is happening in school please don't hesitate to message me on DOJO or email [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk)

Have a lovely weekend,

Ellie Game

### Fundraising

Just before Christmas the Year 5 talent show raised just over £150 for Birmingham Women's Hospital

The Year 6 mini Christmas fair raised just over £200 for cancer research

### Friendship

This half term we are exploring the Christian value of Friendship.

### Covid Update

We currently have 8 cases of Covid-19 across school but the majority of these cases haven't been in school since before Christmas. We have put together some frequently asked questions/ answers and have attached them to this newsletter. We will also save it to the Covid section of our website.

### INSET DAY

Just a reminder that our next INSET day is on **28th January** so school will be closed for pupils on this day. (It was changed from the 28th February which will no longer be an INSET day and school will be open as normal.)

### Spelling at OCEPS

This week we have launched our new spelling scheme. Years 2-6 will be having a short burst spelling session each day which will focus on a new spelling rule each week. Each child also has a log on to Spelling Shed an online platform where children can practice the rule they have been learning in school. More details will come home via class teachers. (Rec and Year 1 will continue with their phonics program)



# COVID-19

## Coronavirus Symptoms



12 November 2020

### SERIOUS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

- If you develop any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider or health facility and seek medical care immediately.
- This is not an exhaustive list. These are the most common symptoms of serious illness, but you could get very sick with other symptoms – if you have any questions, call for help immediately.



Shortness of  
breath/ Difficulty  
breathing



Loss of speech  
or mobility or  
confusion



Chest pain

### MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS



Fever



Cough



Tiredness



Loss of taste  
or smell

### LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS



Sore throat



Headache



Aches  
and pains



Diarrhea



A rash on the skin  
or discolouration  
of fingers or toes



Red or  
irritated eyes

### PLEASE NOTE:

- If you live in an area where malaria, dengue or other infections are common and you have any of above symptoms, seek immediate medical care according to the local health authorities.
- Stay in touch with your primary care provider to ensure you continue to receive the routine care you need, such as medication refills, follow-ups and other routine consultations.

## **Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions:**

*The guidance below applies to children below the age of 18 years old and adults who are double vaccinated (different guidance applies to any adults over 18 years who are not double vaccinated):*

### **My child has developed symptoms (cough, temperature or loss/change of taste or smell).**

If you develop any of the following symptoms: a new continuous cough, a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), you should self-isolate and arrange to have a PCR test for COVID-19 either online or by phone by calling 119, even if your symptoms are mild.

### **My child has developed wider Covid symptoms (extreme tiredness, sore throat, headache, aches and pains, diarrhoea, a rash on the skin or discolouration of fingers or toes, red or irritated eyes)**

If you develop any of these symptoms it is strongly recommended that you arrange to have a PCR test for COVID-19 either online or by phone by calling 119, even if your symptoms are mild. You do not have to self-isolate whilst waiting the results of this test.

### **My child has tested positive on a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at home – what should I do?**

- Until 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 - book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible.
- From 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 onwards – no confirmatory PCR test is required and you should follow the next steps.
- Isolate your child (the rest of the household can carry on as normal so long as they are not displaying any Covid symptoms).
- Inform your child's school that they have tested positive via [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk)
- The rest of the household should take daily LFT tests for 7 days – if any of these tests are positive the guidance should be followed for this.

### **My child has tested positive on a PCR test – what should I do?**

- Isolate your child.
- Inform school via [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk)
- The rest of the household should undertake daily LFT tests for 7 days and report the results of these for any school children in your household to [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk)
- Please see note below regarding isolation periods.

**My child was asymptomatic when they tested positive and started their isolation period. They have since developed symptoms.**

If you are isolating because of a positive test result but did not have any symptoms, and you develop Covid-19 symptoms within your isolation period, start a new isolation period from the day your symptoms start.

**A member of the household has tested positive for Covid or is displaying symptoms of Covid. Can my child still come to school?**

Yes, your child can still attend school so long as they are not displaying any Covid symptoms themselves. They are strongly advised to take a daily LFT test for 7 days and report the result to school via [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk). If the LFT test is positive they should not come to school. Where possible make provision to ensure that family members that have tested positive do not leave the house to drop off children to school.

**My child has been identified as a close contact of someone with Covid (but they don't live with them) – what should I do?**

- They are not legally required to self-isolate as a contact, you are strongly advised to take a rapid LFD test every day for 7 days or until 10 days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier. LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms. If any of these test results are positive, you should self-isolate immediately.
- If any test result is positive, inform school via: [contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:contact@oldswinford.dudley.sch.uk) and follow the isolation guidance.

**What is the isolation period?**

You can return to your normal routine and stop self-isolating after 10 full days if your symptoms have gone, or if the only symptoms are a cough or anosmia (change in your sense of taste or smell), which can last for several weeks. If you still have a high temperature after 10 days or are otherwise unwell, stay at home and seek medical advice.

You may be able to end your isolation period before the end of the full 10 days. You can take an LFT test from 6 days after the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you did not have symptoms), and another LFT test on the following day. The second LFT test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both of these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your isolation after the second negative test result. However you should continue to LFT test on Days 8, 9 and 10.

Those who leave self-isolation on or after day 7 are strongly advised to limit close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, work from home and minimise contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID- 19. Children are allowed to return to school.

**My child has had Covid within the last 90 days and has been identified as a close contact and asked to take a PCR test.**

Individuals should not do another PCR test within 90 days of their positive result. However they must isolate and seek a new test if they have any new symptoms of Covid-19 or get a positive LFT result.