

# Seghill First School

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Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



30 October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have become aware that a number of **parents** have **tested positive for Covid-19** and some parents are **waiting for test results**. We are **not aware of any positive cases among any of our children**.

We have spoken to all of these parents and they are all currently **self-isolating for 10 days**. Their **children are self-isolating for 14 days** and return to school dates for all children involved have been confirmed with parents.

We have reported the number of positive test results among parents to **Northumberland County Council's Public Health Team**. They confirmed that we have done everything that is required by a school and do not have to take any further action, such as closing or partially closing school.

We are aware that the number of cases among parents and adults in the wider Seghill community may be a cause of concern to you. However, conversations with the Public Health Team confirms that these cases are likely to be due to **community transmission**, and not transmission within our school.

As the cases we know about are likely to be due to community transmission it is important to protect our children and their parents plus our staff from transmission becoming school based. With this in mind, we are introducing an **additional measure from Monday 02 November**.

**From Monday 02 November, we are asking all parents and carers to wear a face covering while on the school site for both dropping off and collecting children.** This does not include adults who are exempt from wearing a face covering. As per government guidance, **children should not wear face coverings**.

Staff will not be wearing face coverings.

These decisions will be reviewed regularly in line with our **ongoing risk assessment processes**.

We must all continue to follow the **protective measures** that we have in place, especially those that involve parents and carers on our school site. Please remember and adhere to the following points-

- The one-way system for drop off and collection is in place and must be followed by all parents and carers at both dropping off and collection times;
- Parents and carers must maintain a social distance while dropping off and collecting children. Please do not congregate outside classroom doors;
- Parents and carers of children in Blue class must not queue or congregate on the path between the drive and Blue class. If the path is blocked parents and carers in other classes cannot use the path while maintaining social distance;
- Parents and carers (or an adult from their support bubble) must drop off and collect their own children. We cannot have parents taking other people's children to their classrooms;
- Children who arrive late at school will not be allowed in.

Parents and carers are reminded that they should not arrive on the school site until it is time for their children to enter their classroom. Some adults are on site at 8:30am when the first classroom doors do

not open until 8:45am.

All of the protective measures that we have in place inside school will continue. Children in each class bubble will not mix during lessons nor at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

We realise that this is a confusing and concerning time for everyone. We have received emails from a couple of parents to ask if they will be fined if they keep their children off school or to say they are concerned about sending their child to school due to the number of cases in the community. Parents and carers obviously have to make their own decision, however, we cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for children to be at school unless they have a specific reason not to be; either they are unwell or are self-isolating.

Children have already missed so much of their education last academic year and we are just starting to see progress with our catch up curriculum. It will be really detrimental for children to miss any more school because of fears around community transmission when we have so many protective measures in place in school. We urge you to follow governmental advice and send your child to school from Monday unless they are unwell or self-isolating.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Chappell  
Headteacher

Steph Hall  
Chair of governors