



Bickley Primary School
Nightingale Lane, Bromley BR1 2SQ

All Different, All Equal, All Achieve



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the Covid guidance has changed and the NHS – not schools - is informing people via Track and Trace where necessary regarding positive cases.

As explained in last week's letter, we are not able to give parents details of positive cases within the class or within the families of classmates. I am still receiving emails and phone calls from parents who are anxious that a pupil in their child's class is isolating due to testing positive. I understand this – especially when some families have vulnerable family members living with them. We will continue to do all we can to ensure regular and frequent handwashing and classroom ventilation, but we cannot inform you of specific cases. I will, however, send out 'timely' reminders to remain vigilant and take regular lateral flow tests, etc.

Please see the following guidance for schools from **Public Health England:**

The Department for Education has worked closely with Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Test and Trace to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the potential risks of spread. A key part of this is the appropriate use of testing to help identify people who are positive and subsequently their contacts. We have made testing available throughout the country and anyone with symptoms can book a test online or over the telephone through 119 to get the certainty they need to protect themselves and those around them.

Crucial to our overall support for schools and colleges is ensuring that everyone with coronavirus symptoms has access to a test as soon as they develop those symptoms. It is vital that we learn from the recent Scottish experience, where the return of schools saw a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms. We want to avoid a similar surge in test demand as England's schools and colleges return to ensure that we continue to prioritise our testing capacity for those with symptoms and to avoid children, students and their families self-isolating unnecessarily.

To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- 1) They develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell; or*
- 2) They are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).*

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a



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headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.

Open Evening

We are looking forward to seeing many of you tomorrow after school for Open Evening. You are invited to come into the school at any time between 3:30pm and 6:00pm to have a look around, see your child's classroom and say hello to their teacher. We are expecting that it may be quite crowded between 3:30 pm and 4:00pm and would advise that you may wish to wear a face covering.

Table Tennis Tables and the Garden after school

It has been lovely to see so many parents and children playing in the grounds after school and we have been delighted to see some of the parents playing table tennis on our outdoor tables. Please feel free to bring a bat and some balls if you would like to have a game after school.

Please can I remind parents to supervise their children after school and make sure that they do not sit on or climb on the table tennis tables and that they only go in the school garden if accompanied by an adult. (The left hand garden is 'under development,' and is not appropriate for children to play in yet.)

The School Website

Please make sure you visit the school website if you need to find information about term dates, new Reception tours, the curriculum, after school clubs and many, many other things. Most phone calls involve questions that could be answered by looking on the website, so it would be helpful to Mrs Peirce and Miss Milne to check on the website before phoning.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



E. Blake