



9th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID 19 – Staffing Update

First of all, many thanks for your support over the last two days – your patience, understanding and willingness to speak with us when in doubt have enabled us to ensure that children and parents both **feel** safe and **are** safe during a period which we know will be challenging for everyone.

Following our letter to you yesterday, together with the Department of Education we have now been able to develop a clear response to the positive test for coronavirus that Mr Whitty was made aware of yesterday.

The assessment that the Department of Education have made with us sits around two key areas for the 2 days prior to Mr Whitty's test on Friday 6th November:-

- Staff and children who had contact with Mr Whitty for 15 minutes or more, at a distance of 2 metres or less.
- Staff and children who had contact with Mr Whitty for 1 minute or more, at a distance of less than 1 metre.

Staff or children who fit into either one of these categories are advised to self isolate until Friday 20th November – this represents a period of 14 days since their last contact with Mr Whitty.

Having carried out a thorough analysis of how children and staff have engaged with Mr Whitty since last Wednesday, we are clear in our minds that only staff and children in the Year 3 class fit into either one of the categories above.

With this in mind the decision has been taken that the children and staff of the Year 3 class should remain at home and self-isolate. Assuming that children and staff are healthy they will be welcomed back into the setting on Friday 20th November.

We are advised by the Department of Education that **all other classes can remain open**, for the reasons that we have sought to explain above.

With this in mind we look forward to welcoming children from Year 4, together with Mrs Russell, Mrs Cousins and Mrs Louise back tomorrow – such good news for all of us.

Of course it is important during these times that we continue to be on the look out for symptoms of coronavirus. Should you, your child or anyone else close to you demonstrate the symptoms below please arrange to have a coronavirus test and keep in touch with us in school – we will be keen to listen and to help you in any way that we can. We are becoming more experienced around the current situation all the time and we'd be keen to share our understanding.

High temperature	New, continuous cough	Loss or change to your sense of smell/taste
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You will remember that we are also asking you to support us in maintaining a healthy school environment. If you feel that your child is displaying any symptoms or signs of being unwell, whether linked to coronavirus or not, we are asking you to keep them at home until they have recovered. This supports us in being able to monitor children's health in school more easily and prevents viruses circulating that may lead to people feeling uncomfortable about their children's health.

Following this letter we have tried to answer questions that will be on the minds of parents, and particularly those of children in Year 3. Please spare a moment to give these a read – they may answer concerns that you have, or prompt further questions in your mind. As always, if you have further questions, please get in

touch with us through the usual means – School Gateway; Email at admin@haytorview.devon.sch.uk; Phone on 01626 203040.

Once again, thank-you for your patience and support.

Yours sincerely,

Katy Galling
Head of Learning and Development

Niema Bohrayba
Chair of Governing Board

Questions that may be on your mind

How is Mr Whitty's health?

We are in regular contact with Mr Whitty and his family. Mr Whitty is currently feeling the 'onset' of coronavirus, he is experiencing shortness of breath and generally feeling unwell. We'll continue to keep in touch with him and let you know how he is progressing.

When can children in Year 3 return?

The Department of Education has agreed with us being open to Year 3 children again from **Friday 20th November**. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone back again. Haytor View is not complete with a missing class!

Is it expected that siblings of children in Year 3 to return?

Yes. We are advised that it is only children who have had direct contact, in line with the definitions in the letter, who are required to stay at home at the moment. Of course it is important that we continue to monitor the health of all of our children and family members at this time and respond quickly if we recognise symptoms of coronavirus.

Can I bring my Year 3 child to school when I drop off and collect their siblings?

The direction from the DfE is that children who are self isolated are to stay at home for 14 days, therefore we would prefer that children who are not attending school due to illness or isolation do not take part in pick up and drop-off routines. However we recognise the challenge that this presents for many of our families, with this in mind the DfE have said that as they have no specific guidance in this area local arrangements will need to be made. If you are unable to make arrangements for your Year 3 child to be safely cared for at home during pick up and drop-off, you may bring them onto the school site, however it is important that they stay close by your side throughout. We would ask that you are mindful of those around you who may be at risk, or worried by the current situation.

My child receives free school meals – will there be any provision made for this?

Yes. We will be contacting families of children who qualify for free school meals very soon, to offer delivery of school packed lunches to your door each day. If you live beyond the close vicinity of the school our limited capacity may make it difficult to provide daily deliveries – if this is the case we will be in touch to offer you free weekly food packages to support home budgets.

Will you provide my child with learning to do at home?

Yes. The Year 3 and 4 Team will share home learning on the school's website 'splash page'. Just go to www.haytorview.devon.sch.uk. You can even share learning that you have completed.

We were close to engaging you in a new online platform that will support learning at home – Google Classroom. We will continue to introduce this across the school over the coming weeks, but for the duration of the Year 3 closure we will continue to use the school website platform that you are familiar with.

Should you have any questions or concerns about home learning please get in touch with us in the normal way. Be mindful that your child will be upset and frustrated at the closure of their class – for some children this may see they want/need learning, for others a more careful approach will be important. You know your child, support them as you wish, accessing home learning as you feel appropriate. Someone from the Year 3 and 4 team will be checking in with children to say hello and catch up by phone during the current period – they won't be contacting people to check if they 'have done their work' – when you hear from them they will just want to say hello and check-in that all is okay. Of course, if you need more or different home learning, let us know.