



Surrey County Council
County Hall
Penrhyn Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2DN

3rd December 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

Thank you for continuing to help keep our community safe. Our schools, colleges and places of early education all thank you for complying with national guidelines on coronavirus and the protective measures in place. We are especially grateful to those who have had to supervise their children and their learning at home, self-isolate or change their arrangements at short notice. We know it isn't easy.

You are helping to keep teaching staff, other families and vulnerable members of your community safe, as well as your own family.

With Surrey now under tier 2 restrictions and winter nearly upon us, here is a reminder of the guidance for keeping your household, family and community safe as it relates to your child's education.

Drop-off and Pick-Up

If you or someone else picks up or drops off your child at their place of learning, please remember to protect yourself, other families and education staff. Drop off and meet away from school gates if you can and keep 2 metres from other household bubbles and staff. In some settings you may be asked to protect the wider school community by wearing a face covering during drop off and pick up.

When to Self-Isolate

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus or tests positive for the virus, they should remain at home and follow Government guidelines. [Self-isolation and treating coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-symptoms/).

The symptoms of coronavirus include a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell. See [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for more information.

If a member of your household has symptoms of coronavirus or tests positive for the virus, you and your household, including your child, should also remain at home and follow the guidelines above.

If your child displays symptoms, get a test for them by calling 119 or visiting NHS.uk. Inform your child's place of education of the result. They will also arrange home learning where appropriate.

Your child should also stay at home if advised to do so by either NHS Test and Trace or by their school, college, nursery or childcare provider.

If your child's group is sent home

If your child is sent home from school because they are a contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case in their education setting, current advice requires the child contact to stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. They should follow the guidance and not leave home, meet up with friends or have guests over.

Close contacts of a COVID-19 case do not need to take a test unless they are showing symptoms. Other household members (of children self-isolating as contacts) do not need to self-isolate, unless someone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms.

Christmas holidays

Learning in schools and colleges will continue up until the end of this term as planned. Currently they expect to reopen as planned in the New Year.

It is vital that children and young people receive the education they need and deserve, to give them as full a learning experience as possible. We know attending their education setting is important for their emotional wellbeing, social and wider development. Importantly too, staying in education will allow your household to maintain its routine.

Emotional wellbeing

Please remember, it's OK not to be OK. If you find yourself experiencing stress, low mood, anxiety or feel at breaking point, find advice and help at healthysurrey.org.uk. The **Children and Family Health Surrey Advice Line** can also provide you with support for parenting, health and wellbeing concerns by calling 01883 340 922, 8am-5pm Monday to Friday.

If your child is finding things tough in these strange times, useful resources are available for them. Children aged 10 years and older can access wellbeing support online at kooth.com and 11-19 year olds can **text a school nurse** to chat confidentially about things that are troubling them by texting 'Chat Health' to 07507 329951.

We wish you and your family a safe, healthy and peaceful holiday season.



Councillor Julie Iles OBE
Cabinet Member, All Age Learning



Liz Mills
Director of Education, Lifelong Learning
and Culture