



Headteacher: Mrs J Simpkins  
B.Ed NPQH

*'A caring school where every child matters' (OFSTED)*

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Dear Parents and Carers

There is still much speculation regarding the closure of primary schools and I have been keeping a close eye on the news and conversing with the local authority throughout the day. Indeed, I now hear that there will be an announcement from the Prime Minister at 8pm this evening. As a headteacher, I have always heard the news at the same time as you and have never had prior warning of any changes.

We will do our utmost to keep Newburgh open for all children for as long as it is feasibly safe. Currently, the transmission rate in Warwickshire is lower than national average. In the areas which have closed the majority of schools the rates of infection have been around 600 - 1200 per 100, 000. In Warwick the rate is 284.5.

I can confirm that no member of staff has informed me that they do not feel safe to work in our environment which means I do not need to close any classes at this stage due to insufficient staffing.

Before the Christmas break, the protective measures that we have in place, together with your support in keeping to guidelines, meant that we had no positive cases in school. We have updated our risk assessment to support us in keeping the school open for your children and recognise that things may change due to the prevalence of the new variant.

Public Health England are seeing many children test positive who did not have the top three symptoms, most commonly these wider symptoms are severe fatigue (feeling very unwell), sore throat or gastrointestinal symptoms. These symptoms are often thought more likely to be that of a cold, but evidence shows it could be coronavirus. If your child is exhibiting any of the above symptoms, please keep them off school, no matter how much you may believe it is a common cold. Evidence is beginning to show that this is not the case. If your child displays any of these symptoms in school, we will ask you to collect them and book in for a test.

However, it is important to note that we have robust and rigorous remote learning plans in place to support your child's education if we are told to close by the government or the local authority. A reminder of passwords will be sent home and guidance for how to access [remote learning](#) will be on our website. A copy of our blended learning policy can be found on our website [here](#).

As in the previous lockdown, we will make provision for children who are identified as vulnerable or key worker children. So that we can be prepared, can you please look through the key worker list and inform the office via [this link](#) if you believe that your children will fall into any of these categories.



## **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

Childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach.

### **Key public services**

This includes:

those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of: the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition, essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

Production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

## **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

Police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff and those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

## **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

## **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

As always, if you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continual support

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Simpkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs J Simpkins  
Headteacher