

9th October 2020

Dear Parents/Careers

I am writing to inform you that early this morning, 9th October, I was made aware that a pupil at Houghton Conquest Lower School has tested positively for Coronavirus. This means that when they took the test on the 8th October 2020, they had the virus. The child is at home and of course now in self-isolation. I am sure you will join me in sending them our best wishes.

At the earliest opportunity today, I have been in contact with the Department for Education's dedicated Coronavirus helpline to confirm the arrangements that need to be made. Based on this discussion, I must confirm the following:

- As of **Friday 9th October 2020**, children in **Year 1 (Doves Class)** will need to self-isolate. In accordance with guidance given to me, your child can return to school on **Wednesday, 21st October 2020**. Other members of your household do not need to self-isolate unless your child develops symptoms.
- **You will find a very informative information flowchart on our website:**
<http://hcschool.org.uk/symptoms-and-isolation/>
- At this moment in time, it is an isolated positive case within one class; therefore children within the wider KS1 bubble, (Year 2 - Owls class), will remain open, as the risk is very low. However, should there be further cases within the wider KS1 bubble, we will reassess this decision. We appreciate parents will be concerned, please be assured we have taken all necessary steps and advice in line with our detailed risk assessment and operation plan, as a response to a positive coronavirus case.
- *If your child is not in Doves Class, is well and does not have any Covid-19 symptoms, they must come to school as usual, where we will continue with our robust procedures to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.*

Parents of Doves class will shortly receive a letter which will explain to you our plans for remote education – that is, to ensure your child is able to continue to make academic progress during this two-week closure period.

In accordance with government guidelines, please do not get your child tested for Coronavirus, except of course if they display symptoms related to the virus. A reminder that these are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child does show symptoms, and is tested, please do inform us immediately. If you receive the test result out of school hours please email head@hcschool.org.uk.

I understand this letter will cause disappointment, inconvenience, and possibly concern to you as parents. I am hopeful of course that you will see that this is not a failing on the part of the school, but rather an unfortunate inevitability for any school in the country during this global pandemic.

My thanks to you in advance for ensuring our school's unity shines brightly now more than ever. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us directly as we are here to help.

Please rest assured I will continue to work closely with the necessary authorities and will keep in regular contact with you in an open, honest and positive spirit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Heaslip". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miss J Heaslip
Acting Headteacher