



Colne Engaine
Church of England
Primary School
Making a Difference

Colne Engaine Catch Up

We can't wait to see you!

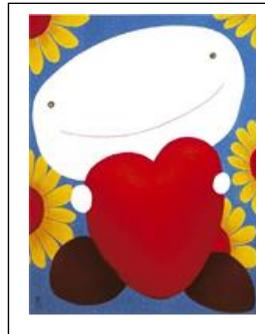
February 23rd 2021

Well here we are... finally we can look forward to having our children back in school again, learning in the classrooms rather than at home.

Thank you for all that you have done to support us during this lockdown – it has been more of a challenge I think for all of us to stay hopeful and optimistic in the depths of winter ... but it now feels like we are on the right track to getting a little closer to normality once again.

In order for us to prepare the classrooms and have a staff meeting to go through our plans, there will be **no live Zoom sessions on Friday 5th March**, although there will be learning activities available for the children to do independently at home.

We know that some of the children may feel a bit nervous about what to expect when they come back into school – so here are a few photos to reassure you all. The classrooms look just as they did when we were last in school. Everyone in Willow, Rowan and Sycamore will have their own place and their own pencil case and book folder. Oak Tree class will have their own resources for the classroom, just as they did before.



We have taken this into account the measures that the government set out, in order to keep children and staff as safe as possible in school and to keep learning and wellbeing at the heart of all we do. We aim to provide the happy, relaxed environment at school that we are all used to and we shall do everything we can to achieve this.

Testing and Vaccinations

None of our staff have received vaccinations yet, as school staff are not in any of the priority groups.

School staff have been issued with lateral flow tests (LFTs) which all of us are using twice a week.

There is some suggestion that the parents of primary school pupils may at some point be provided with LFT kits to test children at home – but we have no further details on this at the moment. We will of course update you as and when we hear anything.



What are the arrangements for getting my child into school in the morning?

- We shall be open for ALL children from Monday March 8th.
- **In a slight change since the last lockdown, we ask that all adults wear a face mask at drop off and pick up.**
- Drop off time is 8.40 – 8.55 am for all families. As we are a small school, with plenty of space for social distancing outside the gate, we do not consider a staggered start time for bubbles to be helpful or needed. Siblings can therefore be dropped off at the same time, reducing the time that adults need to be close to others.
- PLEASE, if you are driving to school, ensure that you do not start to queue outside the school before 8.40am. **It is parent/carer responsibility to ensure that when waiting outside the school, you and your children strictly adhere to waiting at a 2m distance from other families.** We ask for and rely on your steadfast and consistent support in this – we do not have the time or capacity to supervise parents and carers before and after school - and hope that this should not be necessary, providing every family complies with these requests.
- Families are encouraged to walk to school from the village hall car park where possible – and queue as above.
- At 8.40am, the front gate will open and the children will come into school without parents/carers – taking one of 3 routes to their classroom and maintaining social distance from others until they get to their classes.
- Parents/Carers are then asked to leave as quickly as possible, to ensure others can get into school safely.
- **Willow class** children will take the route to the **right of the main entrance** – entering their classroom across the playground.
- **Rowan class and Oak Tree class** children will take the route to the **left of the main entrance** – entering their classroom through the door from the field
- **Sycamore children** will take the route **through the main entrance** – entering their classroom through the hall.

What should my child wear to school?

- Please send children to school in full school uniform as usual – but please make sure children can manage their own shoes, buttons etc as far as possible. Sycamore children can wear ties if they wish.
- On PE days, children should wear school PE uniform to school- please see below for more details.
- Long hair should be tied back securely and hair ties and clips must be small and plain please- in school colours. No bows and/or ribbons please.
- Earrings are strongly discouraged. If they are worn, they should be small plain studs and your child **must** be able to remove them for PE without any help.
- A watch or Fitbit may be worn, but no other jewellery or charity bands are permitted.
- **A coat must be brought to school** – and hat and gloves as needed. We need to get children out in the fresh air as much as possible, especially in the current situation, **so please make sure they come in well prepared for hot or cold, rainy or sunny weather each day.** We may ask children to bring wellies into school if we have lots of rainy weather – as we hope to use our field, because of keeping the bubble groups separate.

What should my child bring to school?

- We need to keep bags and belongings to a minimum! Therefore, children should just bring their plastic wallet as before, which is big enough to hold a reading book and any home learning books or materials. This is the only bag to be brought into school each day. If your child already has a school book bag, or you would like to buy a school book bag, this can be used instead. The bag must be brought into school every day. Please check each day for letters etc- although we will stay as paperless as we can at this time.
- All children must bring a filled water bottle each day please, which remains on their own desk throughout the day.
- We shall provide a clear pencil case for every child and we can provide pens, pencils etc, which will be used by your child. These will not be brought home. We welcome children bringing in their own colouring pens and pencils, rubbers and sharpeners etc- but if they are brought in to school, they must fit into the pencil case provided and they will not be brought home each day. Please bring them in on the first day of school in a clear plastic sandwich bag, ready to put into the pencil cases in school.
- If you choose, your child can bring a small pot of hand sanitiser into school in their plastic wallet Please make sure this is not too runny however... this could cause problems! A small pack of tissues is also encouraged.

What about PE?

- Just as we did in the Autumn term, we would like children to wear their PE kit to school on the days that they do PE outside. This minimises additional risk caused by clothes being changed in busy classrooms.
- For KS2 children in Rowan and Sycamore class, this is on a **Thursday and a Friday**.
- For KS1 children in Willow and Oak Tree class, this is on a **Wednesday and a Friday**
- We still want our children to look smart on a PE day ... so please make sure that the correct PE kit - red top, black shorts, white or black socks and **plain black trainers** is worn. I have checked – black trainers are available at Tesco, Sainsbury, Next, Adidas and Nike amongst others. Plain, simple black track suits must also be worn, which can be worn over shorts and PE top. A coat can also be worn of course on cold days for playtimes.

Who will my child mix with when they are in school?

- Working to current guidelines, we shall be running class sized bubble groups. This means that the children in one class will not mix with the children in other classes at any point during the school day, other than with their siblings at drop off and pick up.
- Therefore, we shall not be able to mix bubble groups for assemblies and worship or at lunchtime or playtimes.
- Within the bubble groups, children are allowed to mix more freely and with class sizes as they are, it would be impossible to have everyone back in school without relaxing the rules around social distancing that are currently in place.
- Class adults are allowed to move between groups – and whilst we shall minimise this as far as possible, we cannot operate without some transition of staff between bubble groups, in order to ensure learning and wellbeing remain a high priority.

What will teaching and learning look like?

- We aim to make learning as rich and varied as it has always been in our school. We shall work on a 'recovery curriculum' to ensure we address areas of learning which need further consolidation or support, owing to lock down. Wellbeing and a focus on strong learning behaviours will be our starting point for every child.
- Every child in Willow, Rowan and Sycamore class will have their own space and nobody will need to move in order to see the board or the teacher. In Oak tree class, the children will move freely within the classroom.
- **Please spend some time before 8th March reminding children that they should cover their face/nose when coughing or sneezing. This is a well-known occupational hazard for teaching staff – and particularly important to avoid at this time!**
- Handwashing and sanitising will take place at very regular intervals throughout the day.
- Shared equipment such as maths, DT, art or science resources will be bubble specific until they can be cleaned and returned to the central resource spaces.
- Reading books will also be bubble specific before changing stock from the library. The library will be closed to children for the time being, sadly.
- Musical instruments that are blown will not be used until guidelines permit and sadly, singing is also not going to be a feature of our classrooms for now. We hope this will change soon – schools are richer places for shared singing opportunities!
- Assemblies and collective worship will happen every day – but in classrooms for each bubble.
- School staff shall try to maintain a degree of social distancing where possible and appropriate from children and other staff, parents/carers, in order to keep everyone safe; whilst the science seems to show that thankfully, children do not tend to become as ill if they contract Covid 19, our adults in school are of course as vulnerable as any other adults - and we have a duty of care to support their health as much as we possibly can. We recognise however, that this is very difficult with young children, especially as we remain committed to their learning and wellbeing. This makes it doubly important that all other measures we have put into place are adhered to.

What about school dinners?

- We encourage all children to have a school dinner. We offer the same, healthy meals as before and can cater for individual needs as we always have. It would really help us if you can focus on supporting children to use a knife and fork as independently as possible, so that they can cut up their own food at lunchtimes. We shall of course help where needed, in as socially distanced a way as possible!
- Children can bring a packed lunch if preferred – in a small lunch bag or box with a handle.
- School dinner times will be staggered, with two sittings, in four areas, to support social distancing of bubble groups.

What are the arrangements for collecting my child?

This took some thinking through when we set it up in September, but it worked brilliantly well, so we shall continue with the plan as before. We are working around several factors such as maintaining the bubble groups as required, sibling groups needing to be collected and our usual safeguarding measures around keeping children safe near the road etc. What a headache!

- **In a slight change since the last lockdown, we ask that all adults wear a face mask at drop off and pick up.**
- All children will go to the playground to stand in their bubble group at 3.10pm. Class adults will be with them.
- At this point, when all of the children are in the right place, we shall open the gate to the carpark – where we shall ask parents/carers to be queuing in a socially distanced manner. Please respect our need for vigilance with this request.
- **Please limit pick up to one parent/carer. Older children at secondary school should not come on to the playground unless they are the one collecting their sibling.**
- Pre-school children must be kept close to their adult and not allowed to run freely.
- **Please do not bring dogs**, as they will not be allowed into the school grounds.
- A member of staff will then open the gate and parents/carers are invited to collect their child from each bubble group as they pass the edge of the group – moving on to the next bubble as needed, to pick up siblings.
- Please continue on the 'one-way system', to the gate out from the school field – maintaining a 2m distance from the person in front of you.
- Gates out to the road will be supervised by school adults.
- **We ask for your help in making this work! Please** ensure that your children stay close to you, socially distanced from all other families, and leave the school site and area outside school as swiftly as possible.

This is NOT how we like to do things – but at this time, we need to adhere to these formalised plans closely, I'm afraid!

Will clubs run?

- This is a work in progress, as we shall need to think through the logistics of managing groups of children who are not in the same bubble group. It is likely that we shall be able to run some clubs as we go forward, but probably bubble-specific. Please leave this with us, to see how things evolve – and we shall let you know as soon as possible.

What other measures will be in place to support keeping my child safe?

Government guidelines will be followed and include

Prevention:

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school*
- 2) clean hands thoroughly more often than usual – this will be done at regular intervals throughout the day. This is the most effective of all the measures we have at our disposal.*
- 3) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach*
- 4) introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach*

- 5) minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 6) where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Numbers 1 to 4 must be in place in all schools, all the time.

Number 5 must be properly considered and schools must put in place measures that suit their particular circumstances.

Number 6 applies in specific circumstances. **In our school, PPE will be worn when dealing with first aid issues, or when a child has been sick or needs intimate care.**

Response to any infection

7) engage with the NHS Test and Trace process

8) manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community

9) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

Numbers 7 to 9 must be followed in every case where they are relevant.

How can I get in touch with my child's teacher or someone else in school?

- We are always available to talk to our families – indeed this communication is crucial to supporting our children, so we encourage you to continue to share information or to seek support where needed. This will need to be done either by phone call or email in the first instance, as we cannot allow parents/carers into the school at this time without a prior appointment. This is not how we usually work as you know – but we are confident that we can maintain strong and effective communication, if we work together on this! Please talk to your child about the changes before we come back to school, so that they know what to expect.

In short then –

- Children arrive at school 8.40-8.55 am – social distancing strictly adhered to outside school – parent/carer responsibility
- Children go into school via dedicated route for each bubble
- Usual smart school uniform, with no ribbons or bows please! Smart school PE kit worn to school on PE days please, including black trainers for all children.
- School book bags or plastic wallet provided only – no school bags other than a lunch box with a handle if needed
- Please help your child over the summer to become as independent as possible in cutting up food with a knife and fork and in doing up buttons, zips and shoe laces.
- Pencil cases provided – children can bring in own pens etc to put in them – but must be left at school.
- Pick up time is slightly different – please make sure you follow our arrangements closely.

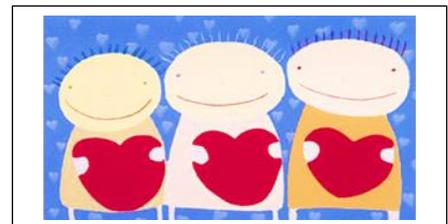
We hope that things will soon get back to normal completely – we can't wait to see you back into school to share and celebrate learning ... and just to be together, as the Colne Engaine family we truly are.

I also attach a flow chart that we have been asked to share, which details the steps we need to take collectively, should any parent, carer, child or staff have symptoms of Covid 19 or tests positive. Please keep this somewhere safe – and call us if you are unsure.

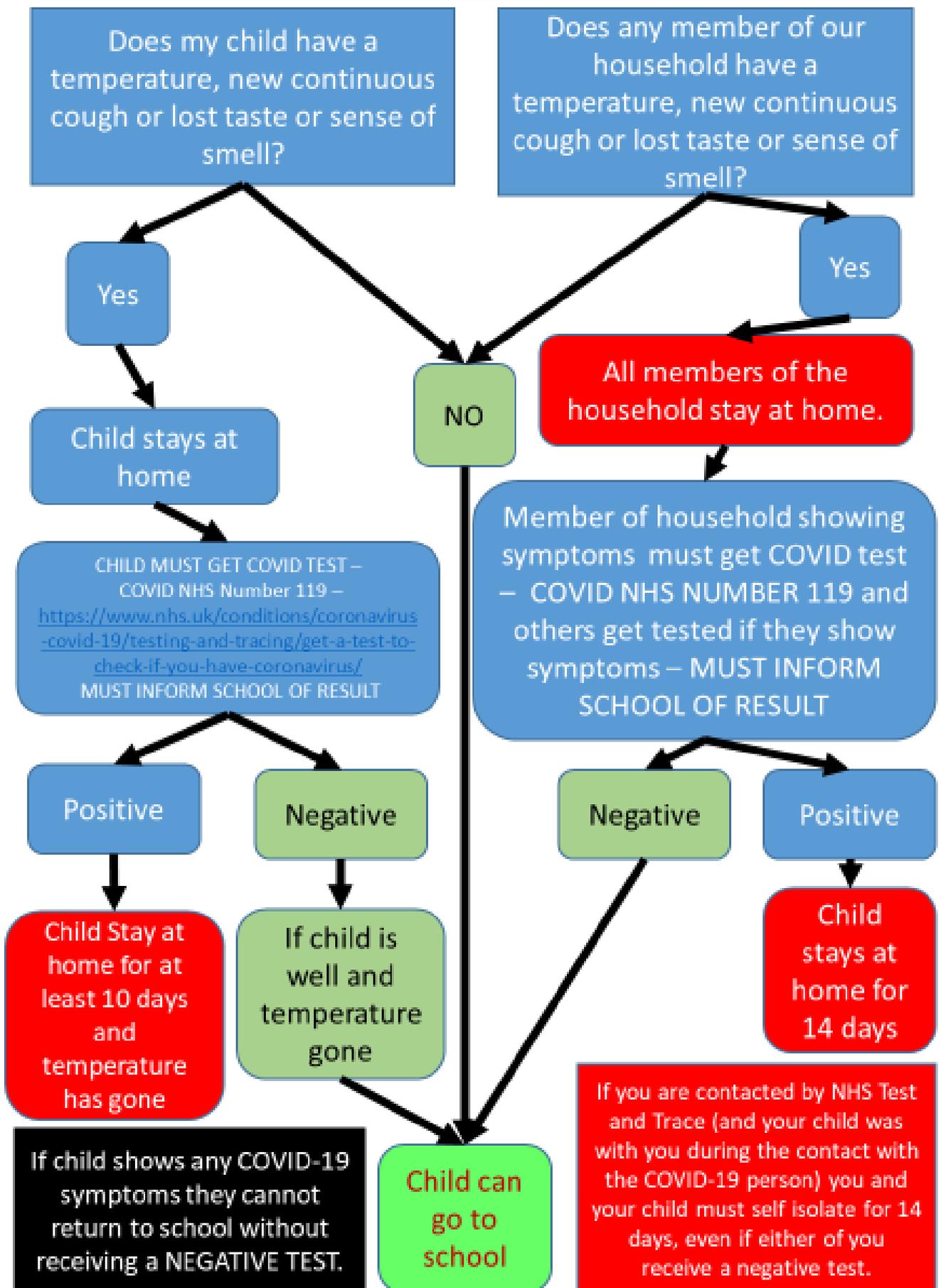
Let's make this work for everyone – I know we can!

With best wishes

Julie Sarti



COVID SYMPTOMS AT HOME FLOW CHART



ACTIONS IF CHILD SHOWS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

