

1 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

CORONAVIRUS & TRANSITION UPDATE JULY 2021

Sadly, we have been advised by Public Health England that there have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. One case involves a Year 4 pupil and the other involves a staff member.

The child has not been in school at all this week and received a positive test result on Tuesday. I consulted with the Department for Education on the exact circumstances and was advised that because the child has not been in school since Friday, it is highly likely that nobody at school has been exposed to the virus from the pupil. This has meant that we have not had to send any additional pupils or staff home to isolate, or close a bubble. The child concerned is doing well and self-isolating with their family – we wish them all the best for a speedy recovery.

The staff member affected is a Midday Supervisor and was in school yesterday. This morning, we have identified the people that were in 'close contact' with them over the past three days. **Parents of pupils affected have now been notified by telephone** and the children have not come to school today. Again, we wish our colleague a speedy recovery – they are recuperating at home.

Orchard remains open, and your child should continue to attend as normal if they are well and have not been told to self-isolate.

This does serve as a reminder that we are, unfortunately, not at the end of the pandemic. Despite 375,000 pupils not being in school, only 15,000 of these have been confirmed as having Covid. Most children at home are there because their 'bubble' at school has been closed, or they have been in close contact with. Examples of 'close contact' include:

- close face to face contact (under 1 metre) for any length of time – including talking to them or coughing on them
- being within 1 to 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes – including travelling in a small vehicle

We are very keen not to have to send pupils home from school. Therefore, please support us by continuing to talk to and encourage your children to wash their hands regularly. Please also be very vigilant to any illnesses your child might have, and **do not send them to school if you think they are poorly.**

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must also stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Headteacher: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Headteachers: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.
Springfield Boulevard, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HW
Telephone: 01908 670681



Orchard and Shepherdswell
Academy
Together we will achieve.



Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The household isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- maintain social distancing and wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting your child from school

Headteacher: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Headteachers: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.
Springfield Boulevard, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HW
Telephone: 01908 670681



East Midlands Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 08149829
Orchard Academy, Shepherdswell Academy, Castle Academy, Hardingstone Academy, Stimpson Avenue Academy, Prince
William School and Northampton International Academy are all business names of the East Midlands Academy Trust.





Orchard and Shepherdswell
Academy
Together we will achieve.



Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

If your child does need to self-isolate from school, please be reminded that you can find weekly learning plans on the [Home Learning](#) section of our website – with links to high-quality online activities and lessons.

Transition

We were hoping to hold a transition day for all pupils on Friday 9th July. This had been scheduled before the Prime Minister's announcement that COVID-19 restrictions will continue until 19th July 2021.

As a result of this change, we would have needed to operate our transition day on 9th July under the current government guidance for schools. This would have meant ensuring we do not 'break bubbles' that are currently in place, and certainly means we would not have been able to mix children from different schools in the same classroom / area (as would normally happen for our Year 2 pupils coming up from Infant Schools for transition day).

Local secondary schools have announced that they will not be holding their transition days for Year 6 pupils currently at Orchard as planned. This means that on 9th July we will still have a full 352 pupils at Orchard Academy, making it impossible to welcome our additional ninety new pupils from Year 2 safely.

Therefore, we have changed our plans and have made alternative transition arrangements with our Year 2 parents.

As a result of the loss of transition day for Year 2 pupils, we have decided to make a similar arrangement for the start of term in September 2021 as we had in September 2020.

Our new Year 3 pupils in September will return to school on Monday 6th September.

If your child is already at Orchard Academy, going into Year 4, 5 or 6 in September, they will now return to school on Tuesday 7th September. On Monday 6th September, school will only be open to new Year 3 pupils.

We feel this will allow a better transition and start for our new Year 3 pupils, so that they can feel comfortable in their surroundings before the rest of the children return. This will be important for them, given they will not have had the usual transition day that our new pupils usually have.

We apologise greatly for any inconvenience this causes, and hope you understand that we continue to have to make decisions that we feel will best support our children.

Please be assured that transition arrangements for our current pupils is well in-hand. Your child will know their new class and teacher for next academic year soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Brown
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Headteachers: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.
Springfield Boulevard, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HW
Telephone: 01908 670681



East Midlands Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales No. 08149829
Orchard Academy, Shepherdswell Academy, Castle Academy, Hardingstone Academy, Stimpson Avenue Academy, Prince
William School and Northampton International Academy are all business names of the East Midlands Academy Trust.

