

Foreland Fields School
Newlands Lane
Ramsgate
Kent
CT12 6RH
Tel: 01843 863891



Website: www.foreland.kent.sch.uk
Email: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Adrian Mount

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Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding COVID-19 and how this impacts on our school operation.

New guidance related to how the new national restrictions impact on schools has been published. We have made changes to our Risk Assessment and Parent Handbook which will soon be made available on our website.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Children

The new guidance states that any *'Staff and children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically **extremely** vulnerable, may continue to attend early years, childcare and school settings in line with current guidance.'*

With particular reference to children, the guidance states, *'Most children originally identified as clinically **extremely** vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically **extremely** vulnerable.'*

*Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically **extremely** vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Schools will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.'*

Any child who falls into the above category and is contacted by their GP or clinician, should not attend school. Please contact Jeremy Edwards or Chris Holmes if you receive any shielding advice.

If, however, you feel your child does fall into the category and you are not contacted, as the guidance states, please contact your child's GP or specialist and also contact Jeremy and/or Chris at the school. Over the course of the next week, Jeremy or Chris will be in touch with parents/carers of pupils with the most complex health needs to discuss this further.

Shielding advice and full guidance including definitions of clinically **extremely** vulnerable can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>



Face Coverings

The new guidance also states that, *'In situations where social distancing between adults in settings is not possible (for example when moving around in corridors and communal areas), settings have the discretion to recommend the use of face coverings for adults on site, for both staff and visitors.'*

We have made the decision to ask that all staff wear face coverings when outside of their class bubble, e.g. in corridors, toilets and at the beginning and end of the school day.

Whilst our pupils/students are exempt from wearing face coverings, any student from Year 7 upwards, who has the capacity to do so safely, can choose to wear a face covering when in communal areas (moving within corridors). Please be aware that students will need to be able to put on/take off their masks without support and will always be encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly before and after doing so. We have a small supply of plastic wallets we can distribute to pupils for them to place masks in when not wearing them.

Please note that face coverings should be worn by all visitors to the school, including outside, unless exemptions apply. We do not expect our Deaf or Hearing Impaired students, staff or parents/carers to wear face coverings unless they wish to do so. All visitors entering school have their temperature taken on arrival, and are expected to wear a face covering for the duration of their visit. If they are attending a meeting, which cannot be held virtually, they will be asked to keep their covering on for the entirety of their visit.

Lastly, can I please remind all parents/carers that you must not send your child into school if they, or anyone in their household, has any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- 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've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Should any child display any of the above symptoms whilst at school, we will follow our procedures and call parents/carers to collect their child immediately and will advise that they should arrange for their child to be tested.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other matters

Kind regards



Adrian Mount
Headteacher

