

SHINCLIFFE C. of E. (CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 17th July

Dear Parents,

I hope you continue to keep well.

These have been unprecedented and challenging times in the life of our school and country. There have been difficult days for many. As a school we have endeavoured to support not only the country's response to Covid-19 by caring for the children of key workers, but also through offering ongoing educational provision remotely to all of our families. I start therefore with a number of messages of thanks. Firstly, to our families who have worked with us during this time and who have supported their children to continue to learn at home. Secondly, to the families of those children who we have been able to welcome back in Years R, 1 and 6 who have worked with us to implement the necessary protective measures to help to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. I am acutely aware that the rules around staggered starts etc that we are required to implement present an additional challenge for some. Finally, to the whole staff team who have worked so hard to support home learning and have kept the school open for key workers' children since March I offer my profound and heartfelt thanks. They are a credit to the school.

As we head into the summer holidays, we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that Coronavirus is still with us and there are some very simple steps we can all take to help keep each other safe and healthy.

Durham County Council have asked us to share the following:

We want to encourage all of our families to have fun together during the holidays, in the (hopefully) warmer weather. But please remember you should still be:

- *Washing your hands for 20 seconds regularly – it's one of the best ways to protect yourself and encourage your children too*
- *Using hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water aren't available*
- *Staying 2m apart where possible or 1m with additional measures such as, wearing a face covering, being behind a screen, not talking face-to-face. When you are in businesses/public premises follow the advice on site*
- *Trying not to touch your face (mouth, nose, eyes) with your hands*
- *Using a tissue if you cough or sneeze, then bin it and wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue use the crook of your arm. Catch it, Bin it, Kill it!*

We know that there is still some confusion around Coronavirus so we thought the following points might be helpful:

What are the main symptoms?

- A temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
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What should you do if you have symptoms?

- Self-isolate immediately
- Get tested – you must do this within the first five days of having symptoms
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How do I get tested?

- You can book a test online at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Or you can call 119 and book over the phone
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What is self-isolation?

If you are self-isolating because you have symptoms/have been diagnosed, someone in your household or support bubble has symptoms/has been diagnosed or you have been asked to by the NHS Test & Trace team, then you should stay at home.

- Don't go out to work / school / public places (if you can work from home that is ok)
- Don't go shopping even for food/medicine
- Don't use public transport or taxis
- Don't have visitors
- Don't go out to exercise (you can do this in your home or garden)
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The County Durham Together Community Hub is there to help you with everything from getting food or medication as well as advice about managing financially and ways to continue looking after your physical and mental health while in isolation. You can find out more details here: <http://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help>

Following these simple steps will help stop the spread of Coronavirus. Remember your symptoms can be mild, so you could be spreading the virus without knowing it. You have the power to help keep your family, friends and loved ones safe.

No doubt, schools will be in receipt of further Government guidance during the holiday period. I will update you before the return in September with any information that you will require.

Today we mark the end of the academic year and say farewell to our Year 6s. We wish the good luck and God's blessing in all they do in the years that lie ahead.

We look forward to welcoming all other children back in September. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy a restful, refreshing and enjoyable summer break.

For updates, please continue to use the dedicated Coronavirus section of the School Website: <http://www.shincliffe.durham.sch.uk/parents/coronavirus-update/>

Stay safe, stay well and take care.

Mr Tait