



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back to school and to see all your smiling and supportive faces every day! We would like to thank you all for your patience and cooperation in helping keep the school and community safe by following our new rules and guidelines.

We have all had to get used to new systems and procedures which I know can be tricky. In school, during the day, the children have immediately adapted to the new routines and it feels very much like the normal school experience... with a lot more handwashing! We have had assemblies (via Zoom), learning Wow days have been completed and break and lunchtimes are in full swing.

We do still need to be alert to the risks posed by COVID-19, especially after the news in the past days that the number of cases is rising. Thankfully Cherwell district remains below the national average, but we must be cautious to ensure it stays this way. May I therefore remind everyone to **continue to follow our guidelines** (which include only **one adult** attending school per family, following the **one way system** and **not entering the cloakrooms or classrooms**) and that you have a duty of care to every pupil and member of staff in school to **not send your child into school if they are displaying symptoms**.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high **temperature** – this means your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their 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 they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to sense of smell or taste** – this means they or you have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Here are the guidelines on what you need to do under the current information we have:

- If your child or any member of your family displays any of these **symptoms**, however mild, they must get a **test** and the **whole household** should **self-isolate** whilst awaiting the result. We will send you a link for you to access work if your child is well enough to complete it.
- Follow the link to find **information** about how to [book a test](#). You can book a test online or via 119. Further information can be found in this article: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-51943612> .
- If the **test** comes back **positive**, the person with the positive test must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started. All household members, including siblings, need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or, if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.
- If the **test** comes back **negative**, your child can return to school immediately.
- Whilst we appreciate that this is the season where colds are prevalent, it is vital that should your child have a **cough** (even if you believe it may be down to asthma or a cold) you seek **medical advice** to see if a test would be required or book a test. We ask that you stay at home during this



time whilst you check. If you are unsure, then we ask you to err on the side of caution and have your child tested.

- If however your child has a **cold** with **no** cough, temperature or loss of smell/taste, they are able to stay at home to recover for a few days if you feel they need to or if you think they are well enough, they can still attend school.
- If you are **isolating** because you have been contacted by **NHS Test and Trace** or because you are required to under public health measures at the border, you must continue to isolate for 14 days even if you receive a negative test. If a member of a household has returned from a **country** on the **quarantine list**, then the whole household must quarantine for 14 days and not attend school.
- In all cases, **work** will be sent out for those who are well enough to complete it via a text link to the National Oak Academy website. On this site, you can select your child's year group and complete the work for that day. The website link should you require it is: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year>

We thank you for following this advice, as it will help make the school safer for all of us. We all have a duty of care to do the right thing and isolate if we, or a member of our household, display symptoms regardless of how minor they seem. We know that it can seem frustrating to have to stay at home again and try and book a test but we thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. Please note, children will not be penalised for their attendance for following these guidelines and can still earn 100% attendance awards as we would take off any days they were off due to isolation or test results.

We understand that this is a lot of information to take on board, so please do feel free to call the office if you would like some reassurance that you are making the right decision.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AE Rogers". The letters are cursive and connected.

Amy Rogers