

# Return to School and COVID-19

## Questions and answers

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a question to us. We hope to be able to answer these as much as possible. Please remember that guidance can change quickly, so we would always advise to check the most up to date guidance around COVID-19. Please contact us if there is anything you wish to discuss further.

**Q. Wondering if the P3 getting out early will come to an end and get out at 3pm like rest? It means parents with older siblings to collect are waiting double the time which goes against no loitering at gates rule and is tricky to balance extra time for working parents without grandparent support just now.**

A. Staggered start and finish times will continue into term 3. This is to ensure the areas around the school are less crowded and therefore safer for our school community. We will continue to monitor this and make any changes when we feel it is safer to do so, taking advice from the local authority and Scottish Government. Older siblings can come out at the earlier time of younger siblings to avoid parents and carers waiting longer. Please email the office to let them know and they will pass this information to the necessary teachers.

**Q. \*\*\*\* had to home isolate for the most of entire period due to COVID-19. He had been doing the home isolation pack and really missed school. Any other suggestions for him.**

A. As well as the home learning packs sent home this month, we have a dedicated area on the school website with resources and links to support learning at home. It can be accessed here <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Kirkhill/our-classes/>

**Q. Will there still be spare bottles of water available if my child requires more water?**

A. Yes. pupils can get these from the Office when needed.

**Q. We have had several notices from Test and Protect recently. Is there an outbreak at Kirkhill? How concerned should we be? Thanks for all you are doing.**

A.

We know how important it is to keep families updated on cases in the school and try to provide as much information as we can. It isn't always possible to share all the information we'd like to, but we will try and keep everyone updated on what's happening.

Whilst close contacts are advised to self isolate as a precaution, unfortunately in some cases, they will go on to develop COVID-19 themselves. This is why it's really important we all remember to stick to the rules even if we or our children don't have any symptoms. Remember, in some cases people can have COVID-19 but not have any symptoms and it's why the NHS have recently been asking all close contacts to get tested too.

We work really closely with the NHS as well as the Council to investigate cases and make sure the school remains safe for everyone. Whilst we can't eliminate COVID-19 completely, as you'll know, since returning to school last year we've implemented a whole range of different safety measures and we continue to keep these all under review to make sure everyone stays safe.

Sometimes when individuals are identified as close contacts they might go on to develop COVID-19 themselves, even if they don't have symptoms. This is why we've now been advising all children identified as close contacts to also get tested. Whilst we hope no one catches COVID-19, unfortunately as close contacts children might have a higher chance of developing it – this is why it's so important.

**Q. How do you work out dates for isolation period for close contacts? Is last day of contact classed as Day 0 or Day 1? This caused confusion for class isolation last week and aware of differing policies between local schools. How far back will you go to count contacts in asymptomatic cases? 48 hours? e.g. if child asymptomatic but tests positive on a Sunday or Monday does that affect if whole class will be contacts and need to isolate? Will you be notified if your child is a very close contact of affected case eg sitting right beside or can we only rely on our children's own descriptions? This would affect risk assessment and possible timing of testing. For instance as frontline key worker I could be recommended to get immediate testing before returning to work rather than waiting 3-5 days.**

A. We work closely with Test & Protect and the NHS to identify close contacts and work out how long people will have to self isolate for. All close contacts have to isolate for 10 days from their last contact with the positive case, with day 1 the date of contact. For example, if you are last in contact with someone on the 1st of the month, you would isolate up to and including the 10th, and be able to return to school on the 11th.

When working out who might be a close contact, we consider the previous 48 hours. This is what's known as the 'infectious period' and has been informed by research in to COVID-19. In most cases this will be 48 hours prior to someone starting to develop symptoms, but if an individual is asymptomatic then we go back 48 hours from when the test was taken.

It's really important we protect people's personal information and it wouldn't be appropriate for us to share details on who tests positive. Similarly, whilst we appreciate that some people might be happy to share this information, we'd ask families to try and not speculate as it can be a really anxious time for people when there's a positive case. Within primary schools, due to the nature of the day, we take a precautionary approach and will usually ask the entire class to isolate. This helps keep everyone safe and reduces the likelihood of further transmission across our school or wider community.

**Q. Thank you for all your efforts in trying to keep the pupils safe. If at all any pupil tests positive, it would be nice if we are informed at least which class has a positive case so we can determine the risk to our child and hence their family members and act accordingly.**

A. We know how important it is to keep families updated on cases in the school and try to provide as much information as we can. It isn't always possible to share all the information we'd like to, but we

will try and keep everyone updated on what's happening. If there is a positive case in your child's class we will always contact you as soon as possible to let you know and give you further information. Following NHS and ERC guidance when this happens, the whole school receives a letter informing them of a positive case, however, for privacy reasons we cannot share specific class information with the wider school.

**Q. Why are the kids currently not being given any homework?**

A. Homework will resume for all classes after the Spring Holidays