



# Hutton All Saints'



## Church of England Primary School

[admin@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk)

[infants@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk](mailto:infants@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk)

[juniors@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk](mailto:juniors@huttonallsaints.essex.sch.uk)



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"I Can Do All Things Through Christ  
Who Strengthens Me" Philippians 4:13

Commitment to excellence within a caring, Christian environment

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're almost at the end of our first full week already! I would just like to share a few points with you all to explain the current situation.

#### **Covid Symptoms Update**

Schools, supported by the Local Authority, are putting rigorous procedures in place to minimise the likelihood of viral transmission, and quickly respond to any positive COVID-19 cases. As we want as many children as possible to remain in school, we are doing everything we can to support the school community and to keep all of our bubbles in school. Therefore, we are having to be vigilant regarding testing, and we are following the latest government guidelines for each individual case.

Current guidelines state that a child showing **any** of the following symptoms should be tested / isolate for 10 days:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature). If you do measure, 37.8C or greater is generally considered a high 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 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

Unfortunately, even if you think your child may simply have a cold, if they also have one of the above symptoms, they will need to be tested / isolate for 10 days from the first symptom. The rest of the household will also need to isolate for 14 days, or until the person tested receives a negative test result. For more information, please see [the guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

#### **How to get a test**

If your child has one of the above symptoms, please [have a test to see if they have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) The service has been incredibly busy this week, and home kits have been very difficult to get hold of. Results from postal tests are currently taking around 5-7 days to arrive, whereas drive in/walk in centres have been sending through results within 48 hours.

There are a number of permanent drive in/walk in centres, which are in the same place each day, and also mobile units, which move around daily. Our closest mobile unit is the Brentwood Centre, but it is only available on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is a new permanent site at Barking FC, which is currently available for walk in appointments at Mayesbrook Park Car Park, Lodge Avenue, Dagenham, RM8 2JR (<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>). Walk-in appointments are currently available at the Barking site without a prior booking, but in busy periods those with bookings will take priority. However, due to increased demand, this information is regularly being updated, so **please check online for the latest information**. Please email or call the office if you need any assistance.

For help on your booking, or if you need to chase results, you can call the coronavirus testing contact centre on **119**. The contact centre is open from 7am to 11pm daily, but please note, they are unable to help you book a test at the moment. If your child requires a test because they have symptoms, anyone they live with must also stay at home ([self-isolate](#)) until they receive the results.

### **Testing Information**

You will be required to carry out the test on your child yourself. This involves using the swab provided to wipe the back of their throat and the inside of their nose. Please see here for more information: [How to test on a child](#)

### **Returning after a Negative Test**

Your child can stop self-isolating and return to school if they test negative, feel well and no longer have coronavirus-like symptoms. All household members can end their self-isolation and return to school or work. If your child tests negative but is still unwell, they should not return to the school until they are recovered.

### **Staffing**

Staff at school are having to remain in their bubbles at all times. This means we only have one member of staff in the office, so please bear with us if you are trying to call, or arrive at the gate outside of drop off/collection times. Please note, on Thursdays and Fridays, the office will be closed between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. Please leave a message on the phone or email us and we will reply on our return.

Staffing may be an issue at times this term, as all our staff will also have to follow the government guidelines. This means staff members will need to isolate if a family member becomes unwell, or be tested themselves if they have any symptoms. Unfortunately, this does mean at times bubbles may have to stay at home, but we will only do this as a last resort.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

Thank you to everyone for taking on board the feedback we sent out last week. We have also read through any suggestions that have been sent in. However, unfortunately, there is no alternative we can pursue at this time. The senior management team, trustees and I have spent many hours discussing all the various avenues, and the current system is the best option available without having to shorten the school day and to ensure we give the children the best curriculum we can.

In order for the classes to not cross bubbles, our current timetable is very tight and we have had to timetable all break times, lunch times, PE lessons and daily mile lessons separately. Therefore, the playground is in use from 8.30am when the first class enters, until 3.10pm when the last class leaves and cannot be used as an entrance. Due to staffing levels, a "team colour" approach would also not be feasible, as it would mean leaving children alone in the class while the teachers go to collect the next group. Our risk assessments do not allow for this, or for parents to be in the playground while children are participating in lessons. We will continue to review the situation, but we are fortunate to have so many gates to be able to use.

It is also very important that you make sure you line up 2 metres apart and that your children are not within 2 metres of children from other classes while they are waiting for siblings - otherwise all our hard work in school will be for nothing! Also, please do not use the trees opposite as swings, as we'd hate to see our lovely trees damaged unnecessarily.

### **Hands, Face, Space**

Yesterday the Prime Minister launched the '[Hands, Face, Space](#)' campaign urging the public to wash their hands, cover their face, and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak. Therefore, from Monday, if you cannot keep 2 metres apart at the school gates, we would advise adults to wear a face covering.

**Thank you all for your understanding, and for following the guidelines we have set out so far in order to keep the school community safe. Please bear with us while we establish the best routines and practices in this unusual and ever changing situation.**

Mrs J Manookian