



COVID-19 Coronavirus

Covid Tier 4 Update – Sunday 3rd January 5pm 2021

In light of your seven questions/queries, I have updated our information. Changes since the Friday update are highlighted in yellow.

How do I contact the school if we have a positive Covid test?

- School term time (8.30am – 3.45pm when the office is open) via phone (01458 250735).
- Out of hours (including weekends/holidays/evenings) please email our Covid account: highhamcovidresults@educ.somerset.gov.uk (This is open 24/7 and monitored throughout the day).

When do we start back?

We are coming back as planned on Monday 4th January. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable even if somewhat different Christmas break and are ready for the term ahead. Lots to look forward to, with a wide range of interesting topics/curriculum activities planned for the forthcoming term. We are also welcoming Mr Briggs to our Senior Management Team.

What are the changes now that we are in tier 4?

We are implementing some changes at High Ham with immediate effect and for consistency these will remain in place for January. As we have moved into tier 4, I am sure you maybe, like ourselves, a little more anxious regarding the spread of Covid. We have put a few changes in place and ask you to work with us as you did last term to ensure that our children can continue with their education. Whilst I appreciate not everyone will like the changes we are making, I do politely ask you to consider why we are making these changes and the reasons behind them. We all have the best interests of your children at heart.

1. No parents on school site at all at the start of the school day, only the main side path gate will be open.
2. Picking up in the school day only in the case of emergency medical appointments.
3. Staggered pick up to aid social distancing.
4. Wearing masks (for adults and not children) and observing social distancing at afternoon pick up keeping small children with you and leaving the school site ASAP.
5. Using reading diaries to communicate with teachers.

Start of day:

7.30am or 8am: HHMM drop off

8.45am: Front of school side gate open for children to come in on their own* **The front gate which is usually left open at the main entrance of the school will be opened by the member of staff on gate duty at 8.45am, please do not allow your child/children onto the school site before then.**

8.55am: Gate closes/register taken

We will be continuing with the first two classes (Ash and Cedar) to have a TA stood outside of the classroom door to help welcome them into their classroom. There will be a member of the Senior Management Team (Mrs Rosser, Mrs Edwards, Mr Briggs or Miss Peach) stood at the front of the school and the rear gate of the school will remain closed.

*NB: After half a term of encouraging children to come in on their own, by now we now expect all children to be able to come in on their own. For the first week back, if you feel your child needs support, please wait with them by the school sign, where a TA will be available to walk your child into school. You may need to wait a few minutes as if the TA is already dropping a child off, you will need to wait for them to come back.

Afternoons:

Staggered pick up (to include siblings in other classes too, please pick up all children at the first time specified below that you have a child in. For example, if you have a child in Ash and Maple, pick up at 3pm).

3pm: Willow and Maple

3.15pm: Oak and Ash

3.30pm: Cedar and Elm

4.30pm or 5pm pick up for HHMM

NB: Due to the lack of staff the gate will open at 3pm and remain open, please can those picking up at 3.15pm wait out the front and only come through at 3.15pm.

What time does my child need to be in school?

8.55am for the register but classrooms/gate is open from 8.45am.

We are still having children arrive late to school. Please send your children to school on time and pick up at the correct time. We are short staffed and with the Covid systems in place there is little room for flexibility. If we all work together and children arrive at school on time we can ensure the smooth running of the school as well as give your child a positive start to their day - arriving late in the classroom is always hard for the child as well as for the class teacher to manage. Please remember HHMM remains open and can be pre-booked. If you need help/support with your child's punctuality please write a note in their reading diary the class teacher will try to help.

Can I speak to the teacher at pick up?

To reduce social interaction and to clear the school site quickly, we politely remind you to use the reading record as your method of communication. Parents' evenings will be arranged in the spring term. In the meantime any queries, please add a note to your child's reading record and the teacher will respond. Reporting illnesses can be done via the phone line (24/7 answer machine) and any out of hours positive Covid tests need to be reported via the Covid email. In the school day the answer machine will be picked up at regular intervals. The office is not always staffed so please remember all the latest info is on Twitter. Please do not call/email to ask if there are any updates; as soon as we know anything, we will share the information with you via Twitter.

Ash, Cedar and Elm – If you are concerned that your child will not hand in their reading record when you have written a comment, please add it to the trolley at the front of the school at drop off. The member of staff on gate duty will then deliver it to the class teacher for you.



Maple, Oak and Willow – The same system as before, the children need to put their reading record in the communication box on the teacher's desk if you have written a comment for the teacher to read.

Is Pre-school open?

Yes, it remains open.

Is HHMM still available?

Yes, it remains open with the weekly pre booking system and set drop off/pick up times.

Is homework important?

Homework is set for every class but it is compulsory for Y5 and Y6. It would greatly help your child's education, especially in this unsettled year, if you would support us with their homework. It is posted on a Monday on the class twitter feeds.

What if there is a lockdown?

Work will be set online, it is therefore important that through weekly homework your child engages with google classroom activities so that they are ready.

If there is a lockdown will critical worker children as well as vulnerable children be able to be educated at school?

Not necessarily, we will need to see what the guidelines are at the time. If a bubble is asked to isolate, none of the children in that bubble will be able to come in.

Where do I go if I need some help/support?

At anytime please add a note to your child's reading record and the class teacher will see how they can help. There is also lots of [specialist support in Somerset](#).

What if I have any other questions/queries that I need answered before Monday?

The form that questions/queries could be submitted on has now closed and replies are on the website ([Feedback page](#)). Any changes as a result are included in this document (highlighted in yellow).

NB: This information is correct as of 3/1/21 5pm. Please keep an eye on Twitter for any future changes.

