



# COVID-19 Coronavirus

## Covid National Lockdown Update

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 3pm

**Updated copy written on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at  
11.30am**

**For ease of reference any changes have been highlighted in YELLOW.**

Firstly, a great big thank you to everyone for being so flexible and helping to get everything up and running for this week. Secondly, here are a few updates for those at home or at school. If you need any help with your child, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or the office for any KW bookings/absences and please remember just do what you can... We know all circumstances are different. It is hard for everyone, try not to worry and access help, should you need it. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and I wonder if we will get snow?

One number for all

Somerset's Local Authorities  
**Coronavirus support helpline**  
**0300 790 6275**

Available 8am to 6pm, seven days a week

A single number is now available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus related support from Somerset's Local Authorities. Anyone who can't find help within their community can use the helpline to get help and advice surrounding:

- Emotional support if you're feeling worried or anxious
- Financial support
- Personal care and support including food and delivery of prescriptions
- Housing and support for the homeless
- Social Care or Medical transport needs
- Waste collection and disposal
- Employment, skills and business advice

MENDIP | Sedgemoor | Somerset West and Taunton | **SOMERSET** County Council | South Somerset District Council | NHS

### Children At Home

It is lovely to see how quickly you have also settled in. I know your teachers have been really pleased with you and I have enjoyed seeing your class twitter posts. Here are a few reminders:

- Logging onto Google Classroom (GC) each day at 9am is to access work for the day (some of which will be on and offline) and for teachers to help. The younger classes who may need more help will upload their work the night before. Please can everyone complete the attendance form, we only now have a handful of people who are forgetting but it does mean teachers have to come out of class to ring, so if you could do it we would be grateful.

- There is continuity throughout the school - using workbooks, information posted on GC as well as class Twitter feeds but how the work is delivered will vary according to each class due the ages of the children and over time we will try an develop the use of different resources.
- Parents working from home – We do understand that some children may struggle to work independently as you may not have time to help them. There are lots of other resources which are suitable which you can use to 'fill in' time while they are waiting for you to help. For example, the BBC TV also starts soon as well as the Jo Wicks workouts, Oak Academy too has a wealth of age-appropriate resources (and if your child finds it too easy, try the next year up) so there are lots of things that the children can do which do not require adult help. Let's not forget too that play is an important part of learning, hopefully they have some Christmas toys to play with too. We understand people need to be flexible.

## Key Worker Children

We have a significant number of children at school at the moment so are going through the list to see now that the initial shock of lockdown has happened if anyone's situation has changed. Not just at High Ham but across the country we are finding that almost a third of children are at school, which is a significant number of households. School staff unions are also voicing concerns, as well as the DFE, as we all want to reduce household contact hence the national rather than tiered lockdown. Guidance from the DFE emailed to schools today mentions - 'limiting attendance is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. We have resisted limiting attendance at schools and colleges until now, but in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to reduce contacts outside households wherever possible. In all cases, provision must continue to be made on-site for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to safeguard their welfare and ensure essential services can continue to function.'

Thus in the light of this, please could you read [the critical worker list](#) (which has now been updated by the DFE) and check that your profession is on the list.

**ADDED ON Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am**

On Friday this document was updated. Sadly when I sent the tweet out with a link to this document, the link worked. I was then notified by a parent that the link did not work any longer. On investigation I realised that the document has been updated on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (but obviously later in the day than I was publishing!). This is the only part that has been changed and to save you re-reading the whole document to find any changes I have added it below. However, **please remember the country needs their KW to be at work, if that means you have no other childcare options than sending your child to school, we do still have a place for your child.** If we have contacted you and offered you a vulnerable child place, then nothing changes.



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### 8 January 2021

Updated 'Critical workers' section to clarify that parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.

## Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections. Children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can go to school or college if required, but parents and carers should keep their children at home if they can.

End of updated part.

In summary, if one member of the family is a KW then school will have a place for them. The idea of the national lockdown as you know was to reduce household contact. I know that not all Key Worker parents are sending their children to school as they are able to work from home or have another parent who can look after their children. Therefore, I am asking that although you have the space booked, please only use it to enable you to do your KW hours. If you are not working on a particular day I politely request that you let the office know so they can adjust our registers. We are not offering half days but we are offering a pick up anytime from 2pm on a Friday. The school answer machine is available 24/7 so please do keep us up to date. But please remember if you are a KW you are entitled to a space to enable you to work and we are implementing that. We just want to make sure the number of households in school at any one time is the smallest number possible, in order to protect everyone and keep school open.

On the first lockdown we had less than half of the numbers in school that we have now and I know the new Covid strain worries us all. Thank you for your continued support and in the meantime, good luck with your Key Worker jobs too.

### A COPY OF THE REMINDERS FROM THE LAST UPDATE

#### Communication

For the period of the lockdown, we have teacher Google email accounts. Please use these considerately. Remember teachers will be organising their own families, teaching in school and online - please log into GC and only contact them when you have specific needs. This will be a useful way to contact the teacher if you are experiencing technical difficulties too as well as to engage with the teacher regarding the type/amount of work as well as support your child may need. Please do not request any ICT equipment, if your child is entitled, we will get in touch with you.

## Contacts for the duration of lockdown

Email accounts will be checked once each school day between 8am - 5pm not on evenings/weekends. Please use these accounts only when needed, a polite reminder to consider the workload of staff.

Ash: Adele.Sanford@Highhamprimary.co.uk

Cedar: Karen.Evans@Highhamprimary.co.uk

Elm: Amy.Palmer@Highhamprimary.co.uk

Maple: Elinor.McElwaine@Highhamprimary.co.uk

Oak: Mel.Peach@Highhamprimary.co.uk (Mon, Tue and Wed) and  
Tom.Briggs@Highhamprimary.co.uk (Thur and Fri)

Willow: Ann.Edwards@Highhamprimary.co.uk

School office: office@highham.somerset.sch.uk

Head: Jane.Rosser@highhamprimary.co.UK

## Children at school

Attendance: KW/VP If you have a place booked and are not coming in, please leave a message on the school answer machine (as before) - do not contact teachers directly.

Things to bring: Each day wear school uniform unless told otherwise, bring a drink, snack, reading book/record and your lunch as well as suitable outdoor clothing and wear nice warm layers.

Childcare: (Breakfast Club and HHMM): Due to staffing, it will not be running until the lockdown finishes and schools fully reopen.

Homework CGP Books: Please bring these in and leave in school as they will be used as part of your lessons as the children at home will also be using their copies.

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

**Even if your child is working from home, it is really important for the next six days that you still do this. A reminder of who to contact.**

- 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).

**NB: Please keep an eye on Twitter for any future changes.**

