



**COVID-19**  
Coronavirus

## Covid National Lockdown Update

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 6pm

**Please take time to read the updated information below. Thank you for supporting your child/children working at home; we do appreciate how difficult it is and we have been very impressed with the work they have been doing.**

### All children at home/school

If there are staff absences, we will need to change things at short notice; this may affect GC users as well as the bubbles at school. Staff are testing twice weekly for COVID, so please be aware we may need close a bubble at short notice.

### **Is school open at half term?**

No, the Government have said schools are not opening.

KW: Thank you for filling in the half-term form, that was really helpful. You will see from the tweet this week that there is no requirement to open the school. Out of interest our response was three children needing a combined total of eight days, so it would not have been viable.

### **When are schools fully opening?**

We do not know yet. Like you, we need to all keep an eye on the national news but March is the earliest return date.

### **Are there any updates from Somerset Education Department?**

Yes, please see the [letter attached](#).

### **If there is a snow day and school closes, will there be GC?**

No! Have fun in the snow.

### Children at home learning via Google classroom

Google Classroom updates as we enter Phase Two.

When this lockdown started, we all found out at the same time. This meant we had very little notice in order to set up our provision. As we had been using Google Classroom for some time and had some fiction books and/or CGP books at home we were ready to go. We all worked at an amazing speed to get things started and hoped it was just going to be until half term. However, now that it looks likely to continue for longer, we are altering some of our structures so they work better in the long term. We are calling this GC Phase Two. You may notice some differences on the classroom pages as teachers are

continually trying new things. Each class uses GC differently, depending on the age/experience of the children in their class.

I have really enjoyed working online with Elm class this week, as I was helping to cover staff absence. It was delightful to see the work uploaded and children really engaging and making an effort to still continue their school work.

### **There seems more than at the last lockdown, why is so much work set on Google Classroom?**

Yes, you are right, there is more than last time. For this second lockdown, the Government have given us guidelines of how much work to set. In all communication and on GC every day, the teacher reminds parents and children that we understand that everyone's household will be different and just to do what you can. Any queries, you can always contact the class teacher, they know your child well and are happy to help. We are keen not to leave any child behind and want to ensure that the children understand that although they cannot do all the same work at home, the expectation from their teacher is that they will try their best and hand in at least one piece of work each day. If you are not able to hand in at least one piece of work each day then email the class teacher and they will see how they can help. Please remember though, the work for some children will be too much, or not enough, it will be too hard or too easy - when at school the teacher alters the task depending on the child and how the lesson goes. This is not possible when setting work for at home in the same way. Please just do the best you can.

### **Does my child need to do the register?**

Yes please, we encourage your child to as it helps the class teacher to monitor who is learning and hopefully it helps you to put some routine and structure to the day for your child.

### **Will I receive a phone call if my child is not submitting any work?**

Yes. However, it would be helpful if you have got any queries or concerns or your child is finding the work difficult or need any extra support that you email the class teacher. They can then see how they can help you best. What we are trying to ensure is that every child is doing some work at home to the best of their abilities, even if it is not all of the work set, that they are at least accessing some of the curriculum. We also know that due to personal circumstances there are things which may prevent them from working, therefore if you can keep us updated, we can then support you.

### **What is my child is not very well?**

Please email the class teacher.

### **Can you provide 1:1 support for my child?**

Not at the moment but it is something we are currently looking into and hope to introduce shortly. We need to release a TA/Teacher who is at school to help those online and currently we just do not have the capacity.

### **Is there still going to be chatty corner?**

Some classes may continue but for the most part we are now encouraging pupils to make a phone call (or use other device) with their parents' permission to another child in their class each week. Or maybe you might like to organise a supervised small group call.

### **Children learning at school**

## Are you changing the bubbles?

Yes. In Phase Two, we will be putting Y5/6 together and Mrs Edwards will be teaching them. All the other classes remain the same. Mr Briggs will continue to cover PE throughout the school as well as support classes. Miss Peach, our SENCO will be supporting classes as well as SEN work. This will also give us some extra cover for when staff are unwell as well as put a sustainable structure into place.

## What do I do if my child is unwell?

Let the office know before the start of the school day.

**Remember, please check Twitter before you leave to bring your child/children to school, in case your class bubble is closed.**

## Reminders from past updates

### Available Support

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

## 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

## Reporting Covid Test Results

**For those coming to school 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.**