



*In federation with Blackminster Middle School*

Aspiration • Respect • Community  
Excellence

**Pebworth First School**

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Linda McQuone  
School Leader: Mrs Georgia Reynolds

18 October 2021

### **HOME LEARNING FROM 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

Dear parents and carers,

You will be aware that we have experienced a rise in numbers of COVID cases across the school in the last couple of weeks. We have been working closely with Public Health England and the Local Authority to manage risks and reduce the possibility of transmission within school and have reintroduced a number of measures such as keeping children in separate bubbles as much as possible to try and limit transmission. However, numbers have continued to rise and it has therefore been decided that all children will move to remote learning as from tomorrow (October 19<sup>th</sup>). They are asked to work at home until after half term, and return to school on Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>, provided that they are experiencing no symptoms (please see below). This is an action we had desperately hoped to avoid, and a decision that has not been made lightly. We hope that this will allow a break in chains of transmission and allow us to get back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

Although our children are officially under the recommended age, we very strongly encourage students in ALL year groups to undertake lateral flow tests (LFTs) twice a week and report the results to the NHS. This can help to identify asymptomatic cases that could be unwittingly spreading the virus. Test kits are available free from school, and from many other outlets in the community. If your child has ANY symptoms that could be COVID-19, you should take them for a PCR test at a test centre.

Please note that the “classic” symptoms of COVID are:

- A temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A change in taste and/or smell

However, the delta variant (which is now the most prevalent variant in the UK) can show in children as

- Headache
- Sickness / nausea

We have also had children suffering with sore throats, ear ache and general lethargy who have subsequently tested positive so please assume any illness could be coronavirus and arrange testing. We'd also ask parents and carers of children in all year groups to follow all government guidelines in order to minimize possible transmission in the community which could then lead to further educational disruption.

We would be grateful if you could continue to inform us of any further positive cases between now and 31<sup>st</sup> October so we have a clear picture of expected attendance for 1<sup>st</sup> November – you can email me over half term should you need to.

Remote learning will be provided for both classes by the end of the day today and staff will be able to support you with this via email or ClassDojo.

A reminder that our email addresses are:

[greynolds@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:greynolds@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk)

[sbudrey@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:sbudrey@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk)

[cdelaney@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:cdelaney@pebworthfirst.worcs.sch.uk)

We appreciate that the decision to send children home will be disruptive for many families, and it is not a decision that we have taken lightly. If your child has an EHCP, if they are Looked After, if they have a Social Worker, or if both parents are critical workers and required at work your child will be able to attend school. If you fall into any of these categories, please call the office to let us know.

However, I must point out that the decision to move to remote learning is to minimize the number of children in school and reduce transmission. Having extra children in school means that this is not as effective and risks us having to go to remote learning for longer. I'd therefore ask all parents and carers to consider this very carefully and only send children in if there really is no alternative. We are pleased and proud to support critical workers, but we need to minimize educational disruption as much as possible, and ask for your support and understanding in this.

My very sincere thanks go to all of our parents and carers for your understanding and support while we try to balance the need to protect public health against everyone's desire to avoid disruption to children's education. This is a horrible reminder that the pandemic is not yet over. School staff and governors, Public Health England and the Local Authority all hope very much that this short-term measure will be enough to break chains of transmission so that we can get children back into school safely.

Yours in partnership



**Mrs Reynolds**  
**School Leader**

