

John Ball School is fully committed to safeguarding all pupils and celebrating diversity.

11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

John Ball's response to a cough in children during COVID-19 pandemic

According to the NHS, a new, continuous cough 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 normal)

We consider that coughing a lot in school is:

- A child coughing lots of times
- A single coughing episode

If your child appears to be coughing a lot in school

Your child will be sent to the office where they will be sat in a well ventilated and unoccupied room that is supervised by the office staff.

We will then check with classroom staff what the child was doing when they were coughing.

A member of staff will wear protective equipment whilst dealing with your child.

We will ring you and together, we will consider the individual case along with the NHS advice and make a decision.

Possible decisions

- 1) Collecting your child from school and follow NHS advice which may include your household having to self-isolate.
- 2) To keep your child in school and monitor the cough for 1 hour and re-contact the parent. Decisions made here might include:
 - Collecting your child and continuing to monitor at home to see if there are any other coughing episodes within the 24 hour period. If there is no further coughing within the 24 hour period, the school would not consider this a COVID-19 symptom and therefore would allow your child back into school the next morning.
 - Collecting your child from school and follow NHS advice which may include your household having to self-isolate

Up to date Government advice on when to self-isolate.

The following advice was taken from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-on-10th-September-2020>.

*If you have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 **however mild**, self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to [testing](#) to arrange. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.*

If you are not experiencing symptoms but have tested positive for COVID-19, self-isolate for at least 10 days, starting from the day the test was taken. If you develop symptoms during this isolation period, restart your 10-day isolation from the day you developed symptoms.

After 10 days, if you still have a temperature you should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. You do not need to self-isolate after 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone. See the ending isolation section below for more information.

If you live with others, all other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. *The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period. The ending isolation section below has more information.*

Returning to school

If your child continued to cough at home, you would only be able to return to school when the period of time outlined above has elapsed or if you have had a negative test result, as long as:

- Everyone you live with who has symptoms tests negative
- you were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if you were, see what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus
- you feel well – if you feel unwell, stay at home until you're feeling better

If you have diarrhoea or you're being sick, stay at home until 48 hours after they've stopped.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Noakes
Headteacher