

## Headteacher update - 10

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we came together as a whole school community to commemorate Remembrance Day with a virtual assembly. We observed the two-minute silence as a whole school and commemorated the men from the local area that gave their lives in the first world war. Students attended School in uniform if they belonged to a uniformed organisation outside of School.



We also had another whole school community charity event today with both students and staff coming in non-uniform to raise funds for Children in Need. We hope to have raised some much-needed funds for this worthwhile cause.

### Generation Stevenage

The future is in your hands: Generation Stevenage is an exciting online virtual event for 15-18 year olds on Tuesday 1 December, 6-7.35pm. Young people, and their parents/carers, can meet the world-class employers on their doorstep and learn more about careers in science, technology, engineering, maths, and healthcare. Visit [www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage](http://www.hopinto.co.uk/generation-stevenage) to book your free place.

### COVID Update

We remain very fortunate that the number of confirmed COVID cases has remained very low in school. As communicated in a number of COVID related letters we expected to see an increase in cases due to the higher numbers both locally and nationally. To date we have had two staff cases and four student cases – all of these cases are unconnected to each other and there has been no transmission in school.

It is clear that cases are generally on the increase, this is not only leading to a number of students self-isolating but also requiring some staff members to work from home provide childcare for their children who have been identified by their schools to self-isolate.

Coupled with staff that are self-isolating and the normal illness at this time of year, we have found it to have a significant impact on the running of the school this week.

Yesterday and today were particularly challenging in terms of the normal running of the school, we are hopeful that the situation will improve next week, but we did want to forewarn parents that it may be necessary to ask a year group to work from home for a certain day. We must stress that this is a last resort, but as we were very stretched yesterday and today it was an option that we considered.

If we felt this to be necessary we would inform parents the evening before, our intention would be not to do this with our younger students. Remote learning would obviously be provided.

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We are hopeful that the national lockdown will improve the overall situation and we will not need to consider this as an option.

### Reporting COVID cases

During the term, it is essential that we as a school are notified of any students that test positive for COVID-19 or have to self-isolate as they have been in close contact to a confirmed case.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During school hours, you should phone the school, and out of school hours, it is necessary to email [communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk).

**Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.**

### **Main symptoms of coronavirus are:**

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

### **Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:**

- they have symptoms of COVID-19
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they have not completed the full 14-day isolation period requested

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

As ever, could we please ask you and your families to do their part in ensuring our community remains safe and our school continues to operate fully. Please follow Government guidelines and reinforce school expectations at home

### **REMINDER: COVID-19 Webpage**

If you have any queries about COVID-19 and Barnwell School, please visit our designated COVID-19 webpage. This page has information regarding our COVID-19 procedures as well as our [school contingency plans](#), information guides and all previous parent/carers communication. <https://www.barnwellschool.co.uk/covid-19-info-2/>

### **Remote Learning**

A reminder that all home learning tasks for students who are self-isolating can be found on our remote learning tab on the School Website. Students should go to their year group, subject and Autumn Term 2 to access their tasks and this can be found at [this link](#).

### **REMINDER: Face Mask update**

Face masks are now required by the government for all staff and students when in indoor social areas and travelling between lessons in our buildings. To further enhance our COVID safe environment, when teachers or teaching assistants move outside their 2m teaching zone, we will insist that students must put their masks on/up for this short period of time.

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Please can you ensure your child has two face masks with them at all times, in case one breaks. We would advise students to wear reusable face masks and that they are washed on a daily basis.

Whilst we would never deny a student the issuing of a mask, there are too many children arriving without them and we cannot continue to bear the extra costs. Continued failure to comply with this request will result in students being issued a concern, and if the situation continues we may need to charge. We are seriously hoping we can avoid this.

### **REMINDER: Parent/Carer meetings**

As we have been advised to reduce the number of visitors coming into school, we would remind you that from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November meetings are held using Microsoft Teams, Zoom or conducted via a phone call.

### **REMINDER: Communications**

Could we please remind parents and carers that due to the current structure of the school day and increased duties, on occasion, staff will not be able to return communication within the school day. A reminder of the school communication protocols set up last year can be found by clicking [this link](#).

If you would like clarification regarding any school matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact via [communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:communication@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

Thank you once again for your support and have a lovely weekend.

Mr Fitzpatrick  
Executive Headteacher

Mr Roberts  
Head of School