

**School Update 5 - Friday 18th September**

Good Evening

I am sure you are now aware that our third bubble has had to shut today. This is very disappointing for the staff team as we are all working so hard to ensure school is as safe as possible. I am sure parents are disappointed too, to see children at home again so soon after the start of term.

I wanted to remind you of the basic precautions we can all take to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading:

- try to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with or anyone not in your support bubble

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds

- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available

- wash your hands as soon as you get home

- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze

- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

- wear something that covers your nose and mouth when it’s hard to stay away from people, such as in the school office or on public transport

- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

As you know we are carrying out additional precautions throughout the school day too. You are welcome to view our risk assessment on the school website [www.lammackprimary.com/covid-19/](https://www.lammackprimary.com/covid-19/" \t "_blank)

I have attached some additional 'what to do if...' information for parents which may help you if your child shows symptoms etc. We know it is difficult with all the different advice and guidance at the moment.

Today I received the latest Public Health Guidance and wanted to make you aware of a few details. We know at the moment it is very difficult to book a test. Please see below the guidance if you are unable to arrange a test within 3 days of symptoms starting.

**If confirmation of laboratory diagnosis is delayed (failure to get a test appointment within 3 days of developing symptoms) the following actions should be followed:**

* **The symptomatic child needs to be excluded for 10 days**(Please Note: this has increased since the information I sent at the end of the school holidays)
* Siblings from the same household who attend school should be excluded for 14 days
* Any other household contacts should self-isolate for 14 days

**If anyone in your household displays symptoms please do not send children in to school**. We have had a number of children become unwell during the school day and when we have discussed their situation with them they have explained that older brothers/sisters are at home unwell also.

You will be aware that n**ew restrictions are to be introduced across the whole of Blackburn with Darwen following a continued rise in cases.**

The Government has announced a ban on mixing with **anybody** outside your household either indoors or outdoors and curfews in pubs and bars from Tuesday, September 22nd.

The new regulations are for the whole of Blackburn with Darwen. They include:

* No socialising with other people outside of their own households or support bubble in private homes and gardens
* Food and drink will be table service only in pubs, bars and restaurants.
* Late night restriction of operating hours will be introduced, with pubs, bars, restaurants and entertainment venues required to close between 10pm to 5am.

Additional guidance also recommends:

* Only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work
* Not attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as spectators

Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced that the restrictions will be in place from Tuesday.

This means the new restrictions are over and above the Government’s ‘Rule of 6’, which was brought in across the country last week.

People will still be able to go to work, school, college or university as usual.

As part of the restrictions for Blackburn with Darwen, it is not appropriate for families to pick up and drop off  other families' children. This is mixing of households. We understand that this can cause difficulties but we ask for all families to look at how they arrive  and leave school as a household and help to uphold the restrictions.

Finally, I have spoken with many parents this week to discuss a range of issues and concerns. I would like to say a huge 'thank you' for your understanding. This situation is difficult for everyone connected with school and with guidance changing so quickly it can be confusing - as much for us as for you! However, parents have been understanding, flexible and most of all supportive in all situations. Thank you!

Hopefully we can all enjoy our 'restricted' weekend and next week will be a less challenging week.

Regards

Mrs Duckworth