

Parents' Guide to School Attendance from 08 March, 2021

As you will be aware, it is the Government's mandate that schools should re-open for all children from 08 March 2021, and we are looking forward to welcoming them back. Many of you will have questions about attendance: this guidance sets out what will be expected from parents and students, as well as answering some of the more frequently asked questions.

What to do if my child tests positive:

Reporting a positive test result only,
in your household/ family:
positivecovidtest@roundwoodpark.co.uk

If your child or anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 everyone should remain at home and begin self-isolation immediately. Please contact us immediately with the test result, so that we can begin contact tracing; identifying other close contacts [students and staff] – **to keep everyone safe and the school open to as many students as possible.**

What to do if your child is unwell:

Contact details for all absences:
01582 714049
Absence@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Please do not send your child (or their siblings) to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Book your child (only the one with symptoms) a COVID-19 test immediately, and let us know the results ASAP.

If the test result is negative they can return to school immediately, if they no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19.

What to do if your child is unwell

1. Please email (preferably) or phone the school Absence line (details above) to let us know before 8.30am on each day of your child's absence.
2. Let us know the reason for absence – **please clearly stating the symptoms in ALL cases**, especially if it includes a cough, temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell.
3. If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, starting from the day **after** the positive test result, and then return to school when they do not have symptoms ***other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste.***
4. If they receive a negative test result and they no longer have symptoms similar to COVID-19, they may return to school once a copy of the test results has been provided to us.

What to do if your child subsequently tests positive for COVID-19

1. Please e-mail the school at positivecovidtest@roundwoodpark.co.uk to let us know.
2. Please provide a copy of the test results; your child will need to self-isolate from the day after first symptoms for 10 days, or until the symptoms have gone if longer – please do not send your child back to school before this;

3. If your child has a sibling at the school they will also need to immediately self-isolate, for 10 days.

What to do if your child comes into contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19

Note – this could be a family member, a classmate or any other person with whom they have had ‘close contact’ in or out of school.

1. Please email the school Absence line (details above) to let us know;
2. Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the day after last contact, at the end of which they may return to school so long as they do not have COVID-19 symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19 test;
- 3. Please do not send your child back to school until the 10 days have elapsed, even if they tested negative with a Covid-19 test – we will be tracking this closely, so please do not attempt to send your child back to school any earlier – to keep everyone safe and the school open.**

All other absences

All other absences should be notified in the usual way using either the Absence telephone line or email address (details given above).

Please also read the Headteacher’s letter to all parents – August 2020

[here](#)

Attendance becomes mandatory for ALL after 08 March 2021

The Government has said that it **expects all children of compulsory school age to return to school from March 2021**, with only a very few exceptions, given below under ‘Exceptional Circumstances’. This means that school attendance will once again be mandatory from the day after your child’s year group is tested for the first time, and *the legal duty on parents and carers to send their child to school regularly* will apply.

A student who is unable to attend school due to either specific clinical or Public Health advice, [recently classified as **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**], in these exceptional circumstances and with medical evidence provided via an up to date shielding letter, will not be penalised for their absence. For all other absences without a valid reason, the school and the Local Authority have a range of legal powers to enforce attendance.

Exceptional circumstances

Exceptional Circumstances	Guidance	Guidance & medical evidence provided by
Tested positive for COVID-19	Self-isolate for 10 days from the day after the date of first symptoms, or until symptoms are gone	Government / Public Health England
“Close contact” with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (examples given below)	Self-isolate for 10 days from the day after the date of “close contact”	Government / Public Health England

Exceptional Circumstances	Guidance	Guidance & medical evidence provided by
Under 18 and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable – very limited circumstances, probably receiving cancer care, or at risk of severe infection due to immunodeficiency or immuno-suppression *	Advised to shield until further notice*	Paediatric specialist or GP to provide up-to-date shielding letter

* ***If, in the professional judgement of your paediatric specialist or GP, your child should not attend school after 08 March 2021, you will be required to provide a copy of a physician’s letter confirming this.***

Advice for everyone in terms of how they can help minimize spread

The school has published a plan and a full risk assessment to parents that details a number of measures designed to minimise the spread of the virus, following guidance provided by the Government. Parents are asked to ensure that students also familiarise themselves with these documents and current Public Health guidance, in order to safeguard themselves and their classmates. Inside school and in the wider community this includes:

- Regular hand-washing and use of hand sanitiser;
- **Maintaining the recommended 2m social distancing between themselves and others at all times when possible especially on the way to and from school;**
- Minimising contact outside of the ‘bubbles’ to which they have been assigned by school;
- “Catch it, bin it, kill it;”
- Letting a member of staff know if they feel unwell during the day, or have any symptoms of COVID-19, so that the appropriate steps can be taken to isolate them from their classmates.

To support these efforts, parents should ensure that students self-isolate and do not attend school if they have been contacted by the **NHS Track & Trace service** because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q:	My child has had a temperature [above 37.8 degrees Celsius] for 2 days but now feels fine, can they return to school?
A:	No – they must have a test as soon as you detect a possible symptom and if the result is positive should self-isolate for at least 10 days in accordance with the Government guidance, or longer if they continue to display symptoms.
Q:	Someone in my child’s class has tested positive for COVID-19, will the whole school be closing?
A:	We will work with the Director of Public Health, and the local health protection team to determine an appropriate response; this will depend on whether it is an isolated case or a localised outbreak. The safety measures we are implementing as a school to minimise transmission should mean that whole school closure would be unnecessary, but the local health protection team will help the school in determining which individuals, classes or year groups need to self-isolate.

Q:	NHS Track & Trace have asked my child to self-isolate due to coming into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, will they be getting any work to do from home?
A:	Yes – your child’s teachers will be providing them with work to be completed remotely during their period of self-isolation via Google Classroom.
Q:	I have not seen my family during lockdown, I have booked a trip which means that my children will not be back in school for the start of term. Will my child be penalised for this?
A:	Any holidays taken in school time must be approved, in advance, by the Headteacher – permission will only be granted in <i>exceptional</i> circumstances. Therefore, parents should plan their holidays within the published school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time. <i>If you choose to take a holiday in school time or in a country that requires them to quarantine on their return to the UK (which prevents them from attending school), then these absences will be unauthorised and could quickly result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.</i>