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20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to share with you some important reminders and new information as follows:

### **Local media interest, data protection and shaming of people with COVID-19**

As you know there is a lot of local media interest in confirmed cases of COVID-19 at nurseries, schools, colleges and other settings. If we, within the Sunflower Federation, would need to tell you that we have a confirmed COVID-19 case amongst the students or staff; we will not provide any unnecessary details that could help identify anyone's personal or medical information which is confidential.

We have been made aware of individuals who have COVID-19 being shamed and harassed on social media. Sometimes this harassment has even included family members. This is simply unacceptable. Anyone receiving a positive COVID-19 test result must not be stigmatised. Those who are unfortunate and have a positive COVID-19 test, need to receive positive and encouraging messages not unkind ones.

### **Advice to self-isolate must be followed**

If you have been advised by 'Track and Trace' or any organisation where your child attends to self-isolate, you **MUST** follow the given advice. Breaking the rule to self-isolate presents with a high risk for your relatives and friends as well as other students and staff at school.

### **Diagnosed COVID-19**

As soon as your child or his/her household member is confirmed to have COVID-19 you **MUST** inform the school about this. This is of paramount importance so that we can put in place measures to safeguard other vulnerable children and to prevent further transmission.

### **Prevention messages ahead of autumn half-term**

We haven't received any guidance on a 'circuit-break' extended half-term from the DfE. It is of paramount importance that all parties (parents, carers, pupils and school staff) keep playing their part and follow Government and Public Health guidance over the half-term break following any updates that they may receive.

Self-isolation rules continue during the holidays and must be followed as advised.

## **Schools bordering tier two areas**

Both Essex and London have been placed under tier two restrictions and classified as areas of high risk from Saturday 17 October. We know that some students' families and staff are living in, and travelling to and from these high-risk areas.

Schools will be operating as normal and so we expect staff to come to work as usual, - unless they are self-isolating and the same applies to students.

You can find the latest guidance for each tier at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-levels-what-you-need-to-know>

## **Autumn break**

It has been a very intensive start to the school year. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and communication with us. As a result of our open and close collaboration, our students, - your children, have made a positive start to their new school year.

I wish everyone a good autumn break. We are looking forward to the next chapter of this school year after the half term break.

Kind regards,

Merja

## **Further information**

**DUTY TO SELF-ISOLATE:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>

## **GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

## **PPE IN SCHOOLS (UPDATED)**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe?utm\\_source=14%20October%202020%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe?utm_source=14%20October%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

## **FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS (UPDATED)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

## **FACE COVERINGS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

**GUIDANCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH POSSIBLE OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

**GETTING TESTED**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

**COVID- TEST**

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

