



Dear Parent/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November England will be entering a 'National Lockdown', lasting approximately one month. At present, this is scheduled to end on Wednesday 2nd December. Whilst under a 'National Lockdown' the Government have stated that you must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes, including:

- for childcare or education,
- for work purposes,
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place,
- for any medical concerns, reasons, appointments and emergencies, or to avoid or escape risk of injury or harm,
- shopping for basic necessities,
- to visit members of your support bubble.

The Government stated that further guidance would be provided to schools regarding the 'National Lockdown' on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, however this has still not yet been published. Therefore, at present, there will be no changes to the way in which we will be operating here at Isaac Newton. When the guidance is released we will of course implement this fully and make any necessary adjustments. We will ensure that we keep you updated of this, however I do not expect that there will be any significant changes to implement. Schools have been directed to stay open for **all** pupils during the lockdown and **attendance remains compulsory**. With this in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some of the measures which we have put into place to ensure the safety of all our pupils, staff and their families.

- Every child is allocated to a specific 'bubble' which is their class. Children and staff within this bubble do not mix with children and staff from other bubbles within the school. This also includes during playtimes and lunchtimes!
- Classroom surfaces and 'touch points' are cleaned regularly throughout the day.
- Equipment is not shared between class bubbles unless it has been meticulously cleaned or left to quarantine for 72 hours.
- Toilets are allocated to specific class bubbles and are cleaned more frequently throughout the day.
- Children wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day and the school has purchased a number of hand sanitiser units for both staff and pupils to support with this.
- We operate staggered start and finish times and a one-way system around the school site to ensure that Parents/ Carers and children can socially distance when entering and leaving the school site.
- Children, staff and parents are not permitted to enter the school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Should any pupil or adult display genuine symptoms within school then they will be isolated immediately and sent home to self-isolate.
- The number of visitors to school are limited only to those who the school deem as **essential**.

These are just a small number of the measures that we have put into place. Should you wish to view the full school risk assessment which outlines all of the measures then this is available on our school website on the 'Statutory Information' page, in the 'Covid-19 Risk Assessment' section. If you wish to

discuss any of these measures with the school then please do not hesitate to contact either Mr Heathcote or Mrs Pask via the school office.

We are working extremely hard in school to keep everyone safe so we do ask that all Parents/ Carers also do the same outside of school. The Government message is clear and states that we ARE NOT to socialise with other households or families, inside or outside of our homes, from Thursday 5th November. Please ensure that you keep social distancing **at all times** on and around the school site and do not gather in groups. We ask that only **one** Parent/ Carer picks up or drops off and that they enter and exit the school site promptly, following our one-way system. Parents/ Carers should enter through the main front gate and exit out of the side gate. There is also a one way system across the school field and over the basketball court for those collecting from the classrooms on that side of the school.

The Government have allowed us all to form a childcare and/ or support bubble (depending on our circumstances). These are defined as below:

*"A childcare bubble is where someone in one household provides informal (unpaid and unregistered) childcare to a child aged 13 or under in another household....This might be a relative or a close friend and parents can only form one childcare bubble...and must always be between the same two households."*

Households can only form ONE 'childcare bubble' and a 'childcare bubble' is different to a 'support bubble'.

*"A support bubble is a close support network between a household with only one adult in the home (known as a single-adult household) and one other household of any size. This is called making a 'support bubble'. Once you're in a support bubble, you can think of yourself as being in a single household with people from the other household. It means you can have close contact with that household as if they were members of your own household. Once you make a support bubble, you should not change who is in your bubble. Continue to follow social distancing guidance with people outside of your household or support bubble. This is critical to keeping you, your family and friends as safe as possible."*

Should you need any further advice regarding the guidance above then please do not hesitate to get in touch to ensure that you are following it correctly.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school. These are very challenging times for us all and I am exceptionally grateful for all of the patience and understanding that you have shown since we re-opened in September. We understand that there have been so many changes but we cannot fault how well the whole school community have adapted to these! I look forward to seeing all of the children attending school as normal during the lockdown and wish you all the best at this difficult time. I do however, remain optimistic that this will only be a short term measure and hope that some sense of normality will be able to resume for us all in December. If there is anything that the school can do to support you further then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Chris Heathcote  
Headteacher