



Headteacher: **Ms Annemari Ottridge** M.Ed. NPQH NPQEL

4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The Public Health team at Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share a letter from Jim McManus, Director of Public Health, and Jo Fisher, Director of Children's Services of Herts County Council, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

We want to thank you for all you are doing to play your part and help protect your school community. Once again, we're at a crucial time in our fight against increasing numbers of infection within Hertfordshire.

The school community is experiencing a high level of absence due to seasonal colds and sickness bugs together with Covid-19 related absence. In order to protect our whole school community and control spread of any illness, we have implemented the school outbreak plan, and this has been agreed in consultation with the Local Public Health England team. We have reintroduced 'bubbles' and other control measures for a temporary period, to reduce mixing and minimise transmissions between groups.

We're asking everyone to remain extra vigilant and follow the whole school Covid-19 risk assessment. Please see the most updated version on our website.

<https://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=15723&type=pdf>

There are simple things you can do right now to continue to protect yourself, your family and our school community:

**Remember hands, face, space, fresh air** – all staff and visitors will wear a face covering when interacting with other adults in our school, except when outside on school premises, eating and drinking, or if you are exempt from wearing face coverings.

**Testing** – students in year 7 and above are being provided with a free, regular supply of rapid tests and they should continue to take these twice a week. Parents and carers of children in nursery, school or college should also take regular rapid tests along with the rest of the community, by doing this we can all help to reduce the spread of the virus. You can find your nearest collection site or order online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest)

**Vaccination** – please get your vaccine once you are invited to

**Please do not send children back into school if they are sick or feel unwell – be cautious.**

If you or your child/ren receive a positive result from a rapid test you must begin self-isolating immediately, not attend school and book a confirmatory PCR test.

Lonsdale School, Britain Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8UT  
Telephone: 01438 726999, email: [admin@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk)  
[www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk](http://www.lonsdale.herts.sch.uk)

## Learning for Life!



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If you or your child/ren have symptoms (new, continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell or a temperature) you **must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test** at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

We know that we are facing some challenging weeks ahead. The school remains open for all students as long as it is safe to do so.

We are monitoring our staff absence and staffing levels daily to ensure that your child is safely supported in their learning and care. We may have to ask some classes and/or children to access home learning for short periods of time, and this will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

Thank you again for helping to keep yourselves and your community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Annemari Ottridge  
Headteacher

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