



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

18 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The combination of a national rise in positive and suspected coronavirus cases and the subsequent impact upon testing availability has left many parents and carers questioning what they should do in the event of illness in their household.

We ask that you read and adhere to the guidance below when making decisions about whether or not your child is able to attend school. These are the guidelines given to us by the government and we shall be following them in the strictest fashion in order to provide the safest possible environment for our students and staff.

Please do not contact the school for medical advice as we are not qualified to provide such information. If you have any concerns about the health of your child, you should contact your GP or use the NHS 111 online service.

If any member of your household displays symptoms and is undergoing a test for Coronavirus, please do not send your child/children into school until a negative result is received.

We appreciate that, at this time of year, students may get a common cold. If they have a cold and are not displaying any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, they may attend school when they are well enough. However, we would ask that anyone sneezing excessively does not attend.

If you inform school that your child is absent due to coronavirus symptoms, their absence will be recorded accordingly and they will be expected to isolate for a minimum of 10 days (siblings for 14 days) unless the child with symptoms receives a negative test result during that time.

What to do if...	Action Required	Only return to school when...
My child has coronavirus symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do not attend school● Contact school daily via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11)● k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form)● Self-isolate	The test result is negative. If a test is unavailable the student must not return to school for at least 10 days after the

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Take a coronavirus test ● Inform school immediately of the test result via the email address above 	onset of symptoms, even if the symptoms were short lived or they have recovered from them.
My child tests positive for coronavirus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Inform school immediately of the test result via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) ● Self-isolate for at least 10 days 	<p>Your child feels better and has self-isolated for 10 days.</p> <p>Symptoms such as a cough and loss of taste/smell may remain for several weeks after the infection has gone and pose no risk to others.</p>
Someone in my household has coronavirus symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Contact school daily via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) ● Self-isolate ● The household member should take a coronavirus test ● Inform school immediately of the test result via the email address above 	The household member's test result is negative.
Someone in my household has tested positive for coronavirus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Contact school via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) ● Self-isolate for 14 days 	The student has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
My child has been identified as a 'close contact' of someone with symptoms or a confirmed case of coronavirus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Contact school via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) ● Self-isolate for 14 days 	The student has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
We/my child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate due to government quarantine regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Contact school via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) ● Self-isolate for 14 days <i>Quarantine requirements and FCO advice should be considered before booking travel. Information regarding any absence should be provided to the school as per the school</i> 	The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.

	<i>Attendance Policy.</i>	
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not attend school ● Contact school via attendance@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Years 7-11) k.smith@parmiters.herts.sch.uk (Sixth Form) 	Restrictions are lifted.

Contact with a confirmed Coronavirus Case

There is currently some misunderstanding of what constitutes a close contact with a confirmed coronavirus case. Close contact is defined as the following:

- direct contacts - face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)
- proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual
- travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person

Any student who has had contact with a confirmed coronavirus case must self-isolate for 14 days from the time of contact. Contacts of a confirmed case need not take a coronavirus test unless they begin to exhibit symptoms consistent with coronavirus. If a contact does take a test and it is returned negative they must still self-isolate for 14 days from the time of contact due to the incubation period of the virus.

Coronavirus Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – (**over 37.8 degrees**. If you are not able to measure temperature, an indication of a high temperature is if a person feels hot to touch on their chest or back)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

BBC News link

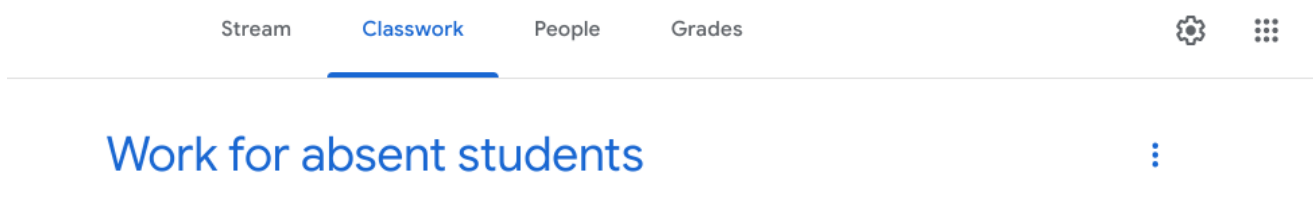
You may find this link useful: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

Work for students who are unable to attend school

We fully appreciate the concerns you might have about your child's learning while they are required to isolate / quarantine. Please be assured we are adapting our plans to the ever changing circumstances and we are constantly reviewing how we best support students both on site and remotely.

Teachers will be using Google Classroom to share classwork with students who are absent from school.

In the Google Classroom, under the 'Classwork' section, students should look for a section titled 'Work for absent students' (they may need to scroll down to find this section) - please see the screenshot below. Here, teachers will document the work covered in each lesson. We ask that you are understanding that staff have full timetables and whilst they are endeavouring to post instructions and any relevant materials as the lesson takes place, this is not always possible. We ask that you and your child are flexible, and complete the work as it becomes available even if this does not follow their usual school timetable.



Where it is possible, staff will use the Google Meet function within Google Classroom to allow students to attend the lesson remotely. This is currently focused on students in Year 11, 12 and 13, but some staff may be able to offer this for students in other year groups where group sizes etc allow this. Please be understanding that 'live' lessons are not always possible depending on the activity and/or the room in which the lesson takes place; please bear with us whilst we all explore this new way of working.

Where a 'live' lesson is offered, we would expect your child to attend. Their teacher will let them know that they are able to join the 'live' lesson - usually this will be done by a notice on the stream of the Google Classroom. The link to join the 'live' lesson is in the header section when you are in the stream section/tab of the Google Classroom. Any students joining a 'live' lesson must read the *Student conduct, good practice and acceptable use when using Google Meets (live lessons)* document attached to this e-mail. Failure to conduct themselves appropriately when joining a lesson via Google Meets will result in them being unable to use this functionality in future.

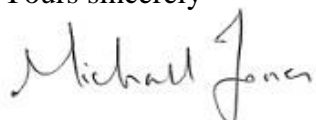
Students in all years must note that homework will continue to be set on Show My Homework, so they must continue to check this as well.

During any period of learning at home, we expect students to be proactive and independent. They should regularly check Google Classroom, Show My Homework and their school e-mail. Where necessary they should independently research topics covered in lessons so they can complete any set tasks. Working at home will not replicate being in the classroom, but our aim is that your child can re-join their class without any significant gaps in their learning.

Your child will need a suitable device (e.g. laptop, tablet, chromebook, mobile) with internet access to use Google Classroom. When joining a live lesson, your child will need a device with a microphone, and ideally a camera so they can interact with the teacher. If your child does not have access to such a device, please contact the relevant person listed below so we can find a way to support you.

- Sixth Form students please contact Mr Henson at t.henson@parmiters.herts.sch.uk
- Year 10 & 11 students please contact Ms Hall at m.hall@parmiters.herts.sch.uk
- Year 7, 8 & 9 students please contact Mr Cummings at b.cummings@parmiters.herts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

M Jones
Headmaster