



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Principal: Mr E Hodges



Thursday 19th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am sure that you are aware that currently the number of Covid cases across Medway is rising quite sharply. In this context a number of schools have had to either close or put in place rotas due to either pupil or staff cases and shortages.

We are not yet in this position as a school, but I felt it appropriate to write to you in order to ask for your support in ensuring that we remain as fully open as possible for as long as possible. Whilst we will continue to do all we can in school, we are reliant on our families' support outside school to ensure that we can continue to operate as fully as possible. Whilst there is nothing new in any of this guidance, I would appreciate it if you could read it carefully and ensure that both your son/daughter and your household are following it.

The most important aspect of the guidance is that if a student, **or anyone else in their household**, develops symptoms of Coronavirus then the whole household must isolate and arrange a test for the person with symptoms. If the test returns a negative result then the isolation can end. If the test is positive then the person with the positive test result must isolate for 10 days and all other members of the household for 14 days. This remains the case even if the other members of the household test negative. The symptoms are well publicised but include a high temperature, a new and persistent cough or a change in taste or smell. Further details can be found on the government website <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>. Abiding by these rules is the single most important thing that families can do to prevent the virus from coming into school. Please ensure you inform us if your son/daughter receives a positive test result, even if they are already isolating.

Further to this, there are several other ways that parents are able to support the school and therefore their children. Whilst we continue in national lockdown, please ensure that your children are following the rules put in place by the government. I appreciate that some struggle with being able to spend the week at school but not being able to see their friends at the weekend. However, currently the rules are that young people should not be meeting socially with friends either inside or outside. By minimising contacts in this way, it will help to reduce the number of contacts each child has and hopefully prevent the virus coming into school.

Finally, parents can continue to help by ensuring that their child has an appropriate face covering and their own hand sanitizer. Face coverings must be worn on public transport and as pupils move round the school site, or when they are in communal areas other than lessons where distancing is difficult. So far, the pupils have been superb in the way they have managed themselves with this, but I would ask that you encourage this to continue and ensure your child is suitably equipped. In terms of hand sanitizer, whilst we now have a huge number of sanitising stations round the school for pupils to use, it is still helpful, particularly in practical lessons if pupils have their own provision of sanitiser that they can be directed to use.

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

Maidstone Road • Rochester • Kent ME1 3EL

Tel: 01634 844008 • Fax: 01634 818303 • E-Mail: office@sjwms.org.uk

Company Registration No. 2336587

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School is part of The Leigh Academies Trust



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We appreciate as a school what a challenging time this is for both pupils and parents. We are hugely grateful for the support you have given us thus far. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will do our best to advise you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr E Hodges