

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Easter newsletter. It has been a tricky term for many of the children returning from another lockdown, but as always, the children have shown great resilience and it has been lovely to have the school full again.

After Easter we move to 13 classes. The new class name is Laurel. This is due to pupil numbers expanding to 124. Over the holidays a new temporary classroom will be craned onto site. The base for this was put down last weekend so the children have been walked through the change. Ash class will be moving out into the new class space and Laurel class will move into the space currently used by Ash class. Parents of children who this affects have been contacted by the class team.

We would like to wish Miss Jess Lacey and her family all the best as she leaves us for maternity leave. Miss Chloe Lawrence has taken the position of Assistant Head Teacher to cover in Miss Lacey's absence. We would also like to welcome back Mrs Sophie Wriggly and Miss Bex Summerfield who are coming back after their maternity leaves.

Due to the expansion of the school, I would also like to welcome the following new members of staff to the team, Miss Megan Arnold, Mr David Geldard and Miss Kerry Marshall as Learning support Assistants, Mrs Jacquie Kearns as Family Support Worker, Mrs Michelle Norris as Health and Personal Care Assistant. Congratulations also to Miss Megan Jackson who has been promoted from Learning Support Assistant to Specialist Teaching and Learning Assistant.

As always, we are constantly improving the facilities for the children. This term has seen the installation on an indoor sensory swing in Maple class and an outdoor swing and climbing frame in the small Forest Schools area. The larger teaching kitchen was also completed at the end of the Autumn term and the children have benefited from it this term.

Wishing you all a restful holiday and hope that the lift in the national restrictions mean you can reconnect with loved ones over the Easter period.



Mrs Turner Headteacher



| Thursday 1 st April | Monday 19 th April | Bank Holiday | Inset Day | Last day of term | First day after half term |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Last day 12pm finish | All pupils return to school | Monday 3 rd May | Tuesday 4 th May | Friday 28 th May | Monday 7 th June |







Support

Child accident prevention trust

The Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) is the UK's leading charity working to reduce the number of children and young people killed, disabled, or seriously injured in accidents.

They exist because accidents are a leading cause of death and serious injury for children and young people.

Many of these accidents can be prevented. Their most recent advice comes just before the half term! Click here for a warning about the new craze of magnetic toys.



Parents and Carers Virtual Support Group

The group meets every other Wednesday night from 7:45pm to 8:45pm.

The groups are planned as:

21st April: Attention Autism

19th May: Anger

23rd June: Toileting

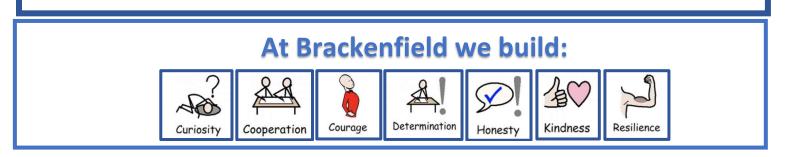
28th July: Mental Health parents

11th August: Sleep

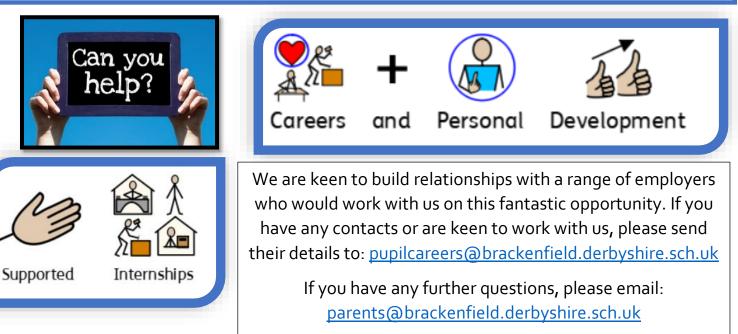
If you would like to attend any of these please email earlyhelp@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk. Fiona will send you a joining invite and details of how to log on. If you do not feel brave enough to have your camera and mic on at first that is fine, you can come along to listen, there is no pressure for anyone to talk if they do not want to. The group is friendly and supportive, there are parents with children in different classes, some of our parents have even met up with their children

to have socially distance walks/playdates, so it is a great way to build connections.

If the time/day is not suitable, we are always looking at how we can build social connections for our parents/carers, so if the day or time is not ideal, please let us know your thoughts so we can look at what works best for most parents/carers.







Testing at home throughout the Easter holidays for schools and

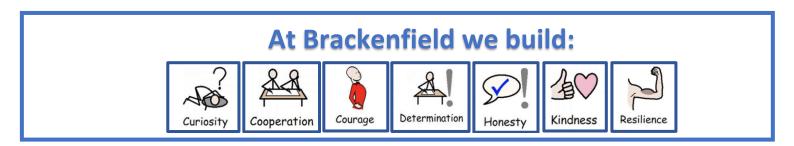


Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school and college, it is vital to keep testing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. All staff and pupils taking part in the testing programme must:

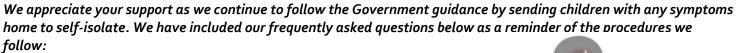
- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results <u>online</u> as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country.
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays.
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Families and households can also access <u>home test kits for adults</u>. This includes all other adults in the household.

Brackenfield test reporting link. Please send any questions to parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk



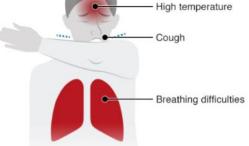




What are the Coronavirus symptoms?

A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- 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 have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy, or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test.

What happens if my child develops Coronavirus symptoms at home?

You must keep your child off school if they develop Covid-19 symptoms. Your child must self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of your family should self-isolate for 10 days. You should also consider getting a test for your child or any family members with symptoms.

What happens if my child develops Coronavirus symptoms at school?

If your child develops symptoms at school, we will call you and ask you to collect your child. Your child will be unable to attend school for 10 days whilst they are self-isolate. In school, we will follow a strict process to ensure other pupils are safe and your child is kept safe and calm. We will provide home learning packs to support a school routine at home.

What should I do if my child has symptoms?

The Government advise anyone with COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.

How do I book a test for my child?

You can book a test through this link: <u>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/</u>

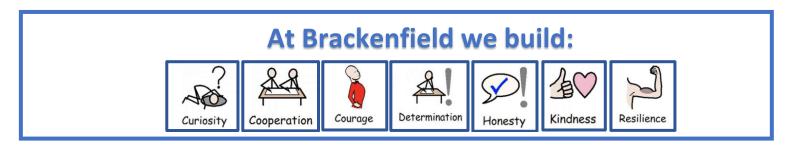
Does my child have to have a test?

We appreciate this may be a distressing experience for your child and therefore understand if you do not do this. We will still require your child to follow the self-isolation rules and be off school for 10 days.

When can my child return to school?

Your child can return to school after 10 days of isolation or after a negative test result and no one else in your household is symptomatic. You MUST email <u>parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk</u> to inform the senior leadership team of the result before your child returns to school. You can also call or text 07930909976 with your child's name and test result.

If you have any questions, please email <u>parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk</u> and we will get back to you within 24 hours. If you want to speak to someone on the phone, please call the school office on 0115 9733710.













Here are some top tips for the keen social media users in our population. It can be hard to feel in control of social media accounts for our children, so we have found some top tips for you.

Instagram new safety features

An interesting new feature being rolled out by Instagram will hopefully stop adults private messaging persons under the age of 18 (unless the child follows the adult). As you will be aware, you should be 13 or over to use Instagram. This is verified (I use the word loosely) when you create your account you enter a year of birth. It is known that many do not put their correct birth year for many different reasons, but this also means that some under 18's will have adult accounts. Instagram are starting to use machine learning to try and predict a user's account. How effective this will be is unknown at the moment.

Further to this, for adults and children that follow each other, Instagram is introducing a new feature where, if an adult has previously been exhibiting suspicious behaviour, such as sending a large amount of friend or message requests to people under 18, the child will receive a prompt to be cautious. You can read more about these features <u>HERE</u>.

YouTube new parental controls

New controls have been released by YouTube to give parents better filtering management. Previously the only filtering option was 'Restricted Mode' which basically meant videos flagged as 18+ were filtered out. Called 'Supervised Experience' there are now filters for:

Explore - 9+ Explore More - 13+ Most of YouTube - all videos except 18+ (the current Restricted Mode)

YouTube released a handy explainer video. The link is HERE.

Cooperation

Curiosity

At Brackenfield we build:

Determination

Kindness

Honesty

Resilience

Courage



At Brackenfield we build:



Cooperation Courage



tion Honesty







This half term, we were pleased to welcome an ex-student – Nathan Brown, who kindly came into school to give a career talk to our KS4 students.

Nathan joined Brackenfield after primary school and left us in 2016. He is a role model and inspiration to all young people and proves that through hard work anyone can achieve their goals. Nathan

never had any doubt that once leaving school he would progress to college and then on to paid employment.

Nathan always aimed high while at school and worked hard to gain the qualifications he needed to get a place on the Level 1 Health and Social Care course at Nottingham College. In year 11 he requested extra literacy lessons, giving up his own time by staying behind after school every day for the whole year. Nathan successfully gained Level 1 Functional Skills in English which allowed him to progress on to his chosen course.



Nathan with Mrs Diggle our Guidance and Intervention Manager

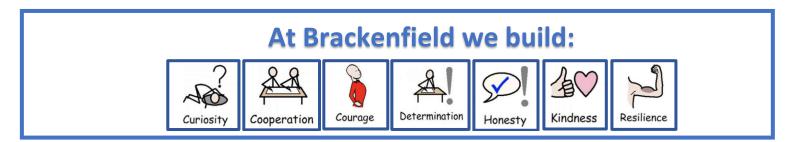
After college he got a job with Mitie, working at East Midlands Airport where he has remained for the last three years. He undertakes a physical job, being on his feet all day, working 12 hours shifts, where he and his team are responsible for cleaning the whole site. He particularly enjoys going into the control towers where he is in the heart of the action.

Nathan has saved his money and bought himself a Vespa moped, which he uses to travel to work. He has been taking driving lessons and is hoping to return to these when lockdown is eased. Once he has passed his test, he intends to buy a car.

Nathan also has entrepreneurial skills. Yesterday he revealed to amazed staff and students that through saving his wages he has bought a static caravan in Skegness which he rents out during the holiday season!

Nathan does not want to stop there; his next big step is to live independently, and he also would like to progress with his career.

Nathan is a true inspiration to all our students. All the staff at Brackenfield are extremely proud of what he has achieved so far and wish him the best of luck with his future.





At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity















Maple Class

This half term Maple have been exploring ice play with dinosaurs. The children enjoyed exploring, feeling and tasting the ice too. We have also been playing with dough using different tools to make and create different marks.









Acorns Class

In Acorns class we have been doing musical interaction and exploring making different sounds with the instruments. We have also been exploring small world toys such as the castle and knight toys. We have also been making apple sauce and chopping apples during cooking which everyone has really enjoyed. Acorns class have also enjoyed group painting with painting stamps and making different shapes.





Elm Class

Elm class have had a brilliant half term! They have enjoyed welcoming their friends back to Elm class. Elm class have enjoyed sensory stories, including the tea party and Goldilocks and the three bears. We have also been exploring colours through art and attention autism sessions. They have also enjoyed sensory cooking sessions and messy play.











Willow Class

Willow class have really enjoyed forest schools with Mr Hardy especially planting our own sunflowers, and we are very excited to watch them grow.

We have enjoyed working as a team to make the parachute move around and singing in different songs during parachute play.

We have been using our sensors for sensory exploration and have enjoyed touching and sprinkling rice as well as listening to the sounds.

Our new favourite toy is the jack in the box, and we are doing really well at taking turns.



















Forest

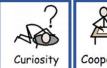




Forest



PIC.COLLAGE





















Rowan Class

What have Rowan class been up to this term?

On World Down Syndrome day, we celebrated why we are all special. We love our sensory story afternoons and attention autism sessions in Rowan class. We have been doing lots of cooking and our favourite was chocolate cornflake cakes. We enjoy our structured play lessons especially musical chairs.

















Sycamore Class

This MER in Sycamore we have been doing lots around the community and doing different role plays to go alongside this. We have explored a car garage, a doctor's surgery, getting a bus.

We have also been doing some building with the building blocks which is a favourite here in Sycamore. We have looked at the colours and counted them but most of all we like building them and knocking them over. We have also loved the taking turns and sharing the new swing and climbing frame outside with our friends. It was also lovely to welcome everyone back.















Conkers Class

In Conkers we have been learning about the high street, creating our own shop fronts, drawing pictures of items to sell and role playing our own shops. We have also been learning how to write a sentence all about spring and having fun with phonics blast. We have been looking at all the things we need to keep us healthy, using the iPads to research how much these items would cost.

In forest schools we have started planting sunflowers and already have a seed sprouting through.

Beech Class

We have really enjoyed the topic of The Great Fire of London, looking at old buildings and how the fire travelled so quickly. We made a human chain with buckets to put the fire out and talked about the fire service today. We also practised using telephones.

We enjoyed making lots of bakery products. Our favourites included bread rolls and sausage rolls.





PIC.COLLAGE















DECODE

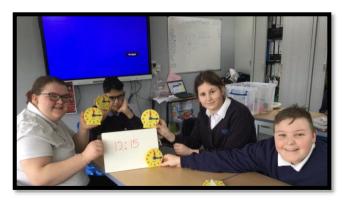
Poplar Class

Our topic has been the Great fire of London and pupils have worked hard. We have looked at 17th century jobs, written newspaper reports and diaries as well as baking our own bread.

In maths we have been working on time and money. We made our own vending machines and used real money to buy items. We also used clocks to identify times.

In Community Participation we looked at the parts of a flower and cut up our own daffodil and labelled each bit.

The best bit is that we have had all our friends back in class and been getting on fabulously.





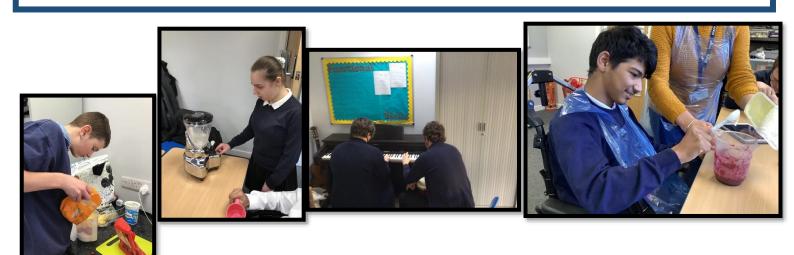






Ash Class

It has been wonderful to have all of Ash class back at school for the last few weeks. In English, we have been working on improving our writing and building our vocabulary. We have enjoyed making smoothies as part of our Food and Drink Preparation course in Independent living, and we will be moving on to work on a new Personal Hygiene topic this week. With Mr Thomas, we have been continuing our exploring music topic and enjoying playing the piano in the classroom. We have also enjoyed doing sport on Wednesday afternoons with Mr Csizmadia.



Hazel Class

Hazel class has been busy in the kitchen making some tasty things such as Hot cross buns, vegetable curry and Viennese fingers. We have been working in the Forest school garden, clearing it, and getting it ready to plant some plants including vegetables.

In numeracy we have been focusing on measuring, in both volume or length. In literacy 3 of our students have written their own story 'Bob forgets his lunch box' which the rest of the class has enjoyed.















Letter to Derbyshire Schools

Dean Wallace Director of Public Health Adult Social Care and Health Directorate County Hall Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Telephone 01629 538964 Ask for Email director.publichealth@derbyshire.gov.uk Our ref DW/DH Your ref Date 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for all you are doing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to continue with your efforts to protect yourself, your loved ones and the whole school community. You are making a real difference.

I appreciate that we have been living under restrictions for many months now and it is challenging to maintain motivation. What you are doing by following the guidelines has made a big difference and enabled Derbyshire to reduce the rates of infection. However, we all need to be vigilant and remember to follow the guidelines to help to keep us all safe and prevent the spread of the virus in our communities.

We know that some children and young people with COVID-19 might not initially experience the three main symptoms (new continuous cough, loss of or change in smell or taste, or a high temperature), with some experiencing other symptoms such as nausea, headache, extreme tiredness or muscle aches. Please continue to be vigilant and do not send your child to school if they are unwell.

There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19. As Director of Public Health for Derbyshire I would urge all parents and carers to follow the national guidance to help keep everyone safe:



HANDS

Wash your hands regularly with water and soap for 20 seconds.

FACE

Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.



SPACE Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible. I'd also ask you to consider wearing a face covering when dropping off and collecting your children as an additional measure to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading. This doesn't replace social distancing, but is an extra recommendation to reduce the potential risk of transmission.

What to do if your child is identified as a contact

If your child is identified as a contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must stay at home and self-isolate until 10 days after contact. School will advise you on the end date for this self-isolation period. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided that your child, and others in your household, do not develop COVID-19 symptoms.

What to do if you or your child develops COVID-19 symptoms

If your child develops one or more of the main symptoms of COVID-19 (new continuous cough, high temperature, or a change or loss of sense of taste or smell), they must not come to school and should stay at home and self-isolate until 10 days from the day after their symptoms started.

Anyone with symptoms should arrange a PCR test via <u>https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</u> or by calling 119. All other household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This means staying at home and not going to work, school or college, or any public areas. This includes anyone in your support bubble or childcare bubble. Please inform the school at the earliest opportunity if your child has symptoms or has tested positive.

If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19 you will need to self-isolate. If you test positive for COVID-19 or are alerted by NHS Test and Trace that you are a contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case you are legally required to self-isolate. Fines are in place for those breaking the rules starting at £1,000 and increasing up to £10,000 for repeat offenders.

Advice and support is available if you are in self-isolation due to coronavirus. If NHS Test and Trace have alerted you to self-isolate, you could be eligible for a support payment of £500. Practical help is also available to help to self-isolate if you don't have family or friends to support you. Further details are available at the link below:

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/healthprotection/disease-control/coronavirus/emotional-health-and-wellbeing/support-in-selfisolation

Accessing testing if you do not have COVID-19 symptoms

One in three of those with COVID-19 do not have any symptoms, meaning that they could be passing on the virus to anyone they meet. People without COVID-19 symptoms can get a rapid (lateral flow) test as part of a testing scheme.

Secondary school students have been asked to take three rapid (lateral flow) tests at their place of study under the supervision of a trained operator and a fourth test themselves using a home test kit. Students will then continue taking twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school or college. They should report all results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions.

Households and childcare or support bubbles of school children can now also access rapid (lateral flow) testing (by post or collection from testing sites). Children of primary school age or younger will not be asked to test via this route at this time. Further details at the link below:

Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Community testing sites are also available across Derbyshire. You don't need to book, just turn up at a time convenient to you. Testing is available to those aged 11 or over. Please make sure that anyone aged under 16 is accompanied by a parent or guardian. Further details at the link below:

https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/healthprotection/disease-control/coronavirus/community-testing/community-testing-for-covid-19.aspx

Secondary students - when to wear a face covering

Current guidance recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff and students in years 7 and above when moving around school. This includes outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn by students when outdoors on the premises.

The guidance now also recommends that for students in years 7 and above, face coverings should be worn in classrooms unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

Some individuals are exempt from wearing a face covering. Please see the link below for further details:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/967285/Face_coverings_in_education-March-2021.pdf

For the latest Government guidance on coronavirus visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Thank you all for working with us and your school to continue to keep each other safe. Together we can make such a difference.

Yours sincerely

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Dean Wallace Director of Public Health

COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: A quick guide for parents/carers



| What to do if | | Action needed | Back to school/early years setting | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| | my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms* | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Child should have a PCR test ** Whole household (and support /childcare bubble) self-isolates while waiting for test result Inform school/early years setting immediately of test result | when child's PCR test comes back negative and free from fever for 48 hours A negative PCR result means the test did not find coronavirus at the time of the test. They can return to school/early years setting when feeling well enough. Coughs and loss of smell/ taste may last several weeks if the child had another virus such as a cold or flu. | |
| | my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a Lateral Flow Test (LFD Test) | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Child should get a confirmatory PCR test if LFD Test was completed at home Child and whole household self-isolates (including support/childcare bubble) for at least 10 days as advised Inform school/early years setting immediately of result | when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days OR if the confirmatory PCR test is negative | |
| | my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) on a PCR test | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Child self-isolates for at least 10 days as advised Inform school/early years setting immediately of result Whole household (and support/childcare bubble) self-isolates for 10 days as advised | when the isolation period has been completed and the child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours. They can return to school/early years setting after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste | |
| | somebody in my household or support/childcare bubble has COVID- 19 symptoms* | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Household(or support/childcare bubble)member with symptoms should get a PCR test ** Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result Inform school immediately about test results | when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms* | |

* Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. For further details visit: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

** Visit https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119

| What to do if | | Action needed | Back to school/early years setting | |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|
| | somebody in my household or support /childcare bubble has tested positive for COVID-19 | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Whole household(and support/childcare bubble)are close contacts and will self-isolate for 10 days as advised - even if you or someone else tests negative during those 10 days | when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 10 days | |
| | my child has been identified as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case | Child should not attend school/early years setting Child should self-isolate for 10 days as advised – even if they test negative during those 10 days Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they have also been identified as a 'close contact' of someone with a positive result or they develop symptoms | when the child has completed their period of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 10 days | |
| | we have received advice from my child's GP or the NHS that my child must resume shielding | Child shouldn't attend school/early years setting Contact school/early years setting as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again | if you receive advice from your child's GP or the NHS that your child no longer needs to shield and can return to school/ early years setting Or, when you are informed that shielding is paused | |
| ? | I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus) | People with symptoms* need to book a PCR test through NHS Test & Trace. Call 119 or visit <u>https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</u> People without symptoms* can get a rapid (lateral flow) test as part of a testing scheme for people without symptoms (e.g. at a community test site, or through school/workplace testing schemes, etc). | | |

For further information: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/coronavirus (Adapted from a document produced by Greater Manchester. Updated 24.03.21)