

30<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Message from Hertfordshire County Council

We have been asked to share the following message from Hertfordshire County Council:

As we step into spring, we're encouraging residents to be kind and stay healthy by following simple steps to live life safely with COVID-19, stop the spread and protect others. For up-to-date information go to <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving</a>

The simple steps people are encouraged to follow are:

- Be kind respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection
- Be informed know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it
- Be vaccinated or boosted ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited
- Be safe manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)
- Be prepared if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it
- Be supported as well as your family and friends, HertsHelp can offer support

## **COVID-19 vaccination**

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <u>https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/</u>

The national booking system for healthy 5- to -11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination will open from 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

Vaccinations are already available for clinically vulnerable 5- to 11-year-olds, and children in this age group who live with someone who has a weakened immune system. Until now vaccinations for this 'at risk' group of children have been available through GPs and special schools, but parents and carers will also be able to book through these through the national booking service from 2 April.

For more information on vaccinations for this age group visit: <u>https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people</u>



## Stay at home if you have symptoms

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, regardless of a positive test result. Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email <u>info@hertshelp.net</u> or visit <u>www.hertshelp.net</u>

Please don't send children and young people back to school following the Easter holidays if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire's childcare and education settings – they need our support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children's learning and development as possible.

We'd like to once again say thank you for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe. We hope you enjoy a great Easter break.

Yours sincerely

T Skeggs

TERESA SKEGGS Executive Headteacher.