



11th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carer

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing support. We have had a calm, purposeful and settled first week. I have had the pleasure of visiting lessons where students are thinking hard and working hard. It is quite incredible to see our school community back together and working with such purpose so quickly. Students have been polite and grateful and as a staff we have enjoyed being back and teaching fully once again. This would not have happened without the support of our parents and this has been overwhelming. Thank you.

Year 7 have made the most incredible impression this week. They have been smart, enthusiastic, hardworking, kind and brave and I hope they have enjoyed their first week as much as we have enjoyed meeting them.

Year 11 have arrived back with a continued determination and focus that we saw across June and July. I am sure that their excellent performance in their English Literature GCSE last year has motivated them even further to excel. It is fair to say that although I have commented on our newest and our most longstanding students, every year group in between has returned to us ready to learn and we are very impressed.

We have been relentless in evaluating how our systems are working and we are tweaking these every day, to improve them for our students, but again our students have respected our systems and new routines and we have been impressed with just how quickly they have been able to adapt for these. Again I'd like to thank staff and parents who are making suggestions that help us to improve our systems at this time. There are always going to be areas we are striving to improve and we will always welcome feedback. I have attached our posters that remind students of our systems for parent information.

Below I've just set out a few important reminders to parents that I hope you can take the time to read and share with the students. These are essential to keep our community safe. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Axe Valley has felt like a genuinely lovely place to be. I feel lucky to have such supportive staff and students and fantastic students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Jenkins".

Laura Jenkins
Headteacher

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If your child is unwell

It is essential that for anyone displaying symptoms of coronavirus that they do not attend school and that you inform school immediately by telephone and seek a test as soon as possible. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

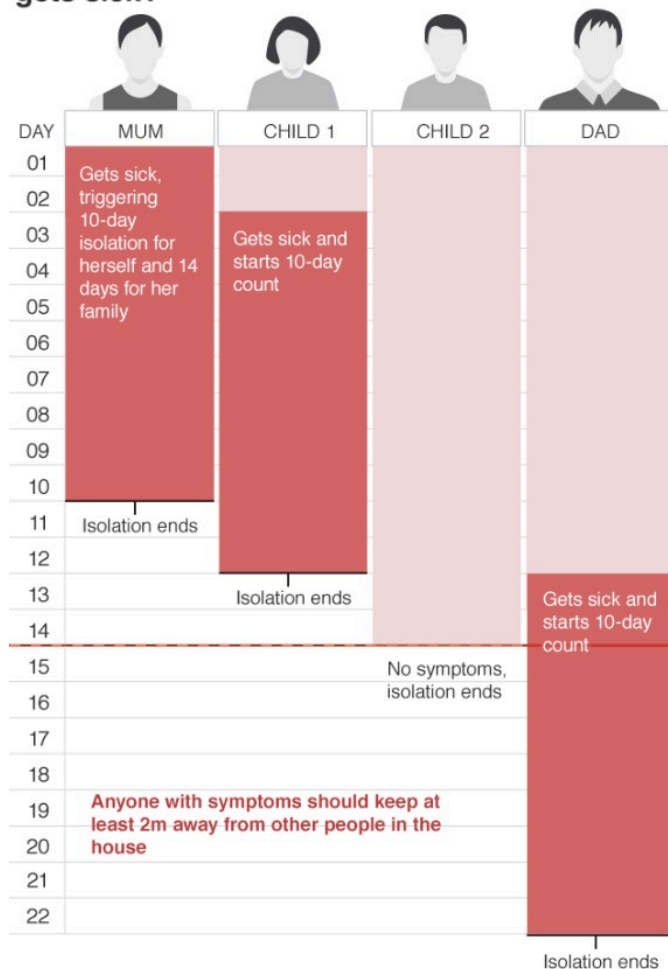
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

[Get a free NHS test today to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If your child takes a test please inform AVA of the result as soon as possible by sending their name and a copy of their test result to admin@axevalley.devon.sch.uk

We have included an infographic they you may find useful.

What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



People may be able to pass on coronavirus without showing any symptoms

Source: Public Health England advice

BBC

Travelling to school

We would like to encourage as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school. If parents are dropping their students at the rear of the school, it is essential that parents do not leave their vehicles. We have again attached the Devon County Council Transport Team flyer. I have summarised the main points below. If any parents have concerns about their school transport, we encourage them to contact us so that we can direct your concerns to the transport team and support them in resolving issues.

- Students **must not** board if they have symptoms of coronavirus.
- Students should wear a face covering
- Students should clean their hands before boarding and, on their departure,
- Students should sit in year groups as far as possible
- Students must, wherever possible, maintain social distancing at pick up points

I'd also like to remind parents of the current car sharing guidance.

- Share the transport with the same people each time
- Keep to small groups of up to 6 people at any one time
- Open windows for ventilation
- Travel side by side or behind other people
- Face away from each other
- Clean your car between journeys
- Ask the driver and passengers to wear a face covering

Uniform

Students will be expected to wear full school uniform and bring their own equipment with them. They should only arrive in PE kit on days where students have PE on their timetable. Students will be allowed to wear their AVA PE hoodies, blazers or plain dark coats over their PE kits if they wish. It is essential that they wear AVA PE kit and not any other gym wear.

PE

The Axe Valley Academy Physical Education Department are going to update parents with a fortnightly bulletin as there are ongoing changes that will affect our students. Below is the first bulleting from Mr Owen, Subject Leader PE.

I would like to confirm to parents/carers of Year 7 & 8 students that swimming will not be an activity offered at present. All years will continue participating in athletic, striking and fielding activities taking place on the field and AGP. We are committed to broadening the PE activities on offer to our students but only when it is right to do so and in line with local and national guidance.