

Confusion reigned in September

In August the government had encouraged us to 'Eat Out to Help Out' in pubs, cafes and restaurants, and in September we were encouraged to return to work in offices where possible and to use public transport to get there. In other words there was more 'mingling' and, as everybody except the government predicted, in September the number of reported Covid cases in the UK started to rise again exponentially (on 29 September 7,143 cases from a low in July of 516). Hospitalisations thankfully remained low, but this situation was not expected to last.

This was partly due to a huge increase in the number of tests carried out, and also partly because people were more relaxed about following guidelines. Government messages became confused, with different guidance – and indeed laws – operating not just in the four countries of the UK, but in different parts of England, leading to a loss of trust in the government's handling of the crisis.

In our Cherwell district, the number of cases was lower than the national average at 11/100,000 inhabitants, whereas Oxford, our nearest city with 45 cases per 100,00 inhabitants, was on red alert and with more stringent local restrictions on the cards. In September nationally we all faced tighter controls: the 'Rule of Six' was introduced, followed by the new mantra of 'Hands, Face, Space': 'When meeting friends and family you do not live with (or have formed a support bubble with) you must not meet in a group of more than six, indoors or outdoors.' And from 24 September pubs had to close their doors at 10pm in an effort to curb the spike in cases. There was a huge pushback on this from the hospitality sector, as well as national and local politicians. Our local pubs rose to the challenge, adapting to the ever-changing rules.


The Rule of Six didn't apply to church services, so the Parish Church could hold services with a maximum congregation of 55 (a 'full house' as Revd Annie called it!) Sports teams could continue to play, so football, tennis, cricket, netball and golf all got to see their share of the ball. Not Badminton, however.

Among the youth groups, the Scouts and Explorers still hadn't managed to meet up, but the Brownies were mixing outdoor and Zoom sessions. Deddington Players abandoned plans for their Christmas panto *Peter Pan* – hopefully, like Covid, he will be behind us this time next year.


No one had even mentioned Bonfire Night on 5 November, but surprisingly our annual charter fair, Hatwells, was to come to Deddington as usual between 11 and 15 November, complete with hand sanitiser. Socially distanced bumper cars anyone?

Our usual November Remembrance Day parade from the Bullring to the War Memorial, headed up by our very own Deddington Brass, could not take place. Instead a much smaller, socially distanced remembrance service was planned in the lower churchyard, with the customary two-minutes silence and a reading of names, but no wreath-laying, no church service.

WHERE CAN I GET A POPPY THIS YEAR?



The Royal British Legion Deddington Branch will be at the farmers' market on 24 October with poppies and VE Day pins. There will also be limited collection tins in a few locations in the parish.



Please make use of these opportunities as there will be no house to house collections this year due to COVID restrictions.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The November *DN* will contain details of Remembrance Sunday War Memorial and church services which will depend on Covid restrictions at the time.

Unfortunately, there will not be a Parade this year.

Martin Hovard
martin.hovard@btinternet.com

Plans for Christmas fund-raising fairs had to be abandoned, leaving the likes of the Friends of Hempton Church who depended financially on their November fair, really struggling. The Christmas tree was ordered, ready to stand cheerily lit in its usual spot in the Market Place, but the traditional Christmas Eve carol singing was silenced.



Yet more notices were posted around the Windmill Centre and the play areas giving guidance on social distancing, the Rule of Six, and featuring the government's new Track & Trace QR code linked to its 'world-beating' NHS app for Apple and Android smartphones (though not older versions of the iPhone, and not for Huawei phones ...) Hirers of the Windmill still had to take contact details of all users for Track & Trace.

The Windmill was open for business, with a steady though cautious stream of clubs and organisations, armed with their risk assessments, using the super-cleaned facilities. Pilates, Yoga, Zumba – and the Deddington News printing and collating teams were back.

One of the big changes this month was that the Primary School was back to full capacity, though with vastly different arrangements. Some of the measures to keep children and staff safe were:

Covid-19 related pupil absence A quick reference guide for parents

What to do if	Action Needed	Return to school when.....
My Child has Covid-19 symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIGH TEMPERATURE – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back. • A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24hrs. • A LOSS OR CHANGE TO YOUR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE -this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything. 	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Get a test. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTThe test comes back negative
My Child tests positive for covid-19.....	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school to inform us Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 10 days. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Bubble isolates/remote learning.They feel better. They can return after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste/smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks.
My Child tests negative	CONTACT THE SCHOOL Discuss when your child can come back to school (same day/next day)The test comes back negative.
My child is ill with symptoms not linked to covid-19	FOLLOW USUAL SCHOOL ABSENCE POLICY PROCEDURE	After 48hrs following the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea if this is the cause of absence.
Someone in my household has covid-19 symptoms	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school. Self-isolate the whole household for 14 days. Household members to get tested. INFORM SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TEST RESULTSThe test comes back negative.
Someone in my household tests positive for covid-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 daysThe child has completed 14 days of isolation
NHS test & trace has identified my child has been in close contact of someone with symptoms of confirmed covid-19	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL CONTACT SCHOOL Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 daysThe child has completed 14 days of isolation
We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as a period of quarantine.	Do not take unauthorised leave in term time. Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed. Agree an earliest date for possible return. Minimum of 14 days from return date. Self-isolate the whole household.The quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
We have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL CONTACT SCHOOL Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again.School inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school.
My child's bubble is closed due to a covid-19 outbreak in school.	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL At home support your child with remote education provided by school. Your child will need to isolate for 14 days.School will inform you when the bubble will be reopened.



***Deddington C.E.(A) Primary School, Earls Lane, Deddington,
Banbury, Oxfordshire. OX15 0TJ***



Tel & fax: 01869 338430

email: office.3452@deddington.oxon.sch.uk.

Website: www.deddingtonprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr Clive Evans

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jane Cross

8th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to provide you with an update of how Deddington Primary School continues to respond to the current pandemic.

Firstly, thank you for your continued support. Please do raise any questions, concerns or suggestions with school staff, via email where possible. Working together in partnership, possibly now more so than ever before, is the most effective way to provide the safest and most productive environment for the children.

I thank all of you for respecting the social distancing expectations we maintain on our school site and ask you all to continue to do so.

As much as possible, please restrict the number of adults entering the school site to drop off and collect any children to one person only.

Please also ensure all letters and documents from school are looked at and read carefully, as communication only works if the receiver reads what they are sent.

The most recent version of guidance for the opening of schools can be found using the link below. We have based all of our planning on this guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

There are 5 guiding principles within the official guidance to support schools at this time:

- There is a requirement that people who are ill with coronavirus symptoms stay at home.
- Establish active engagement with NHS Test and Trace when appropriate.
- Maintain robust hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Ensure enhanced cleaning arrangements are in place.
- Formally consider how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise the potential for contamination as far as is reasonably practicable.

Through inspirational teaching, all our children have the confidence to achieve success in a safe and healthy school with Christian values at its core.

<i>Perseverance</i>	<i>Respect</i>	<i>Honesty</i>	<i>Kindness</i>
<i>Faith</i>	<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>

As always, these were the plans and arrangements in place at the time of writing – anything could and would change the following month. There was a recognition that this wasn't going to be over by Christmas and we were in it for the long haul.