

Dear parents and carers,

As we head towards the half-term break, which I'm sure many of you are looking forward to, we thought now would be a good opportunity to thank you for your continued support in playing your part to help keep the virus rate as low as possible in Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES).

After what has been a difficult six months or so, we want you and your family to enjoy the half term break. However, we would hate to see you and your family having to spend it self-isolating due to COVID-19 and all the disruption that brings with it.

We're at the stage now that if you or your family imminently contract the virus then you would have to spend the half term break inside and self-isolating. Therefore, now more than ever it's vital to follow the national advice.

We know there's so much information available and it's hard to keep track, particularly on when or when not to get tested for COVID-19, so we thought we'd re-iterate the main messages.

We've also enclosed a 'what to do guide' which we hope you find useful. It is a step-by-step guide which takes you through various COVID-19 related scenarios and the action you should take in each.

If you have the following COVID-19 symptoms you must self-isolate and get a test as soon as possible:

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

You can book at test at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

We want to use this as an opportunity to remind you that you should only get a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been asked to get tested.

The easiest way to prevent getting COVID-19 is to keep following the guidance and continue to play your part:

- Wash hands – keep washing hands regularly
- Wear face coverings in enclosed spaces
- Make space – stay at least 2 metres apart
- Follow the Rule of Six

And while in normal circumstances this half-term break would be a time for your children to enjoy playdates and sleepovers, we'd encourage you to limit these as much as possible, as this will help reduce the likelihood of more cases emerging.

Please avoid Trick or Treating if possible, too, and at all times follow the rule of six as well as the hands, face and space guidance. Please avoid knocking on doors in order to reduce the risk of transmission, but best of all find alternative Halloween activities within your own home.

While the number of people who have COVID-19 in B&NES is comparatively lower than other parts of the country, our rates are unfortunately rising so we can't allow ourselves to get complacent.

We know this has been a difficult year for our communities across B&NES and thank you once again for your support and understanding during this time. We really appreciate it.

Many thanks

Name of Headteacher/Manager/Owner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Laurence". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Dr Bruce Laurence
Director of Public Health
Bath & North East Somerset Council