



WILLIAM ELLIS SCHOOL
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Dear families,

I am writing to let you know that William Ellis has partnered with the ZOE/King's College COVID Symptom Study to help us to keep our school community as safe as possible as we move through the Autumn Term towards Spring. Although participation by the school and individual families is voluntary, engaging in this study also means we will be playing our part in creating the world's largest scientific dataset of COVID-19 in children.

We are asking all parents in Years 7-11 to help us by:

1. **Downloading the Covid Symptom Study App** (available from the [Apple](#) and [Google Play](#) app stores). This is completely free to you and the school.
2. **Creating your profile/s and joining our school network.**
3. **Reporting once a day on your son's health** - this takes an average of one minute, simply reporting whether your child is feeling well or unwell and logging any symptoms he may have from a multiple-choice selection. You will be able to set a daily reminder to log your information.

A Parents' FAQ guide about the study and using the app can be found at: <https://covid.joinzoe.com/schools>

How does this study benefit us as a school? With all families reporting daily, the app will provide a powerful tool for helping us and you to understand COVID in the community and help keep everybody safe.

How does this study benefit you as a family? The study will share any findings from their research with you and you will receive personalised COVID insights about your child's bubble via the app. *Please note that all information is anonymised so nothing reported can be linked back to any individual student or family.*

How does the wider community benefit? The information you report will be invaluable to critical scientific research into COVID in children and for public health purposes.

We are asking all parents with sons in Years 7-11 to download this app as soon as possible. Once you have downloaded the app, we ask that you please connect to our school using the following code:

ANDF4BW

To avoid outsiders joining, please do not share this code with anyone who is not a William Ellis parent/carer.

Please note the data shared with this app is entirely anonymous and therefore all positive Covid test results and sickness absence will still need to be reported immediately to the school attendance officer as usual.

More information about the Covid Symptom Study can be found overleaf. Full instructions on how to join and use the COVID Symptom Study app, can be found at: <https://covid.joinzoe.com/schools>

We thank you for helping us to make informed choices about the safety of the school community.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Izzy Jones
Headteacher

What is the COVID Symptom Study app and why should you use it?

The [COVID Symptom Study](#) app is a not-for-profit initiative that was launched at the end of March 2020 to support vital COVID-19 research. The app was launched by health science company ZOE with scientific analysis provided by King's College London. Now, with over 4 million contributors globally, the Study is the world's largest ongoing study of COVID-19.

The app also provides unique insight on asymptomatic and symptomatic information across the UK which builds into a larger picture for the government and captures information not covered by other means. The Government has been so impressed with the data and research being produced it is now funding ZOE to continue the great work.

All data collected in the app is used anonymously for informing other parents in your child's school and your child's school, and anonymously for research and for public health purposes only. ZOE takes data security and privacy very seriously and enforces [best practices](#) to ensure all data is protected. ZOE is required to protect all data by law. As the work that ZOE does takes place in the UK, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation applies.