

Understanding Social Distancing

What Is Social Distancing?

Social distancing is something that has been introduced by a government to try and help to slow the spread of a virus. It includes introducing methods which help people to have less contact with one another.



Social distancing measures may include:

- staying at home as much as possible;
- only meeting people outside while keeping a distance;
- keeping a safe distance between yourself and other people who do not live in your home;
- not going to other people's homes.

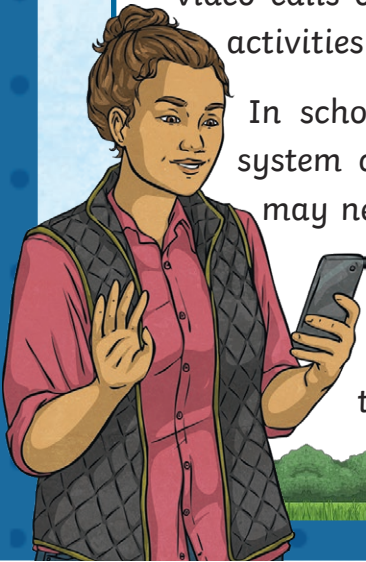
If people start to show symptoms of a virus, they might be asked to stay at home for a certain amount of time.

Why Do We Need Social Distancing?

Viruses are germs that can travel from person to person. If people are close together, it can be easier for a virus to travel between them. Social distancing can help to stop a virus from spreading too quickly.

What Might Social Distancing Look like for You?

At home, you might find that people don't visit you as much as they used to. This is because social distancing often means that people should try not to visit other people's homes and only meet outside. When not seeing each other face to face, families and friends can still keep in contact via video calls or messages. This means that people can take part in fun activities together while following social distancing rules.



In school, your class might be smaller than usual. A one-way system could also be put in place along corridors. Although you may need to keep a safe distance at playtime and lunchtime, this doesn't mean that school won't be fun. There are plenty of games that can be played at a distance. Take a look at Theo and Arjun for example, they've recently returned to school together and are discussing what to do at lunchtime.



Arjun: Come here, Theo. I want to show you these cards.

Theo: I can't, Arjun – we have to social distance.

Arjun: Why? It doesn't make a difference.

Theo: Yes, it does. Viruses can be spread when people with the virus stay close to people who don't have it.

Arjun: I don't feel ill though. I'm fine!

Theo: You probably are fine but some people who carry a virus don't always feel ill straight away. Some don't even feel ill at all.

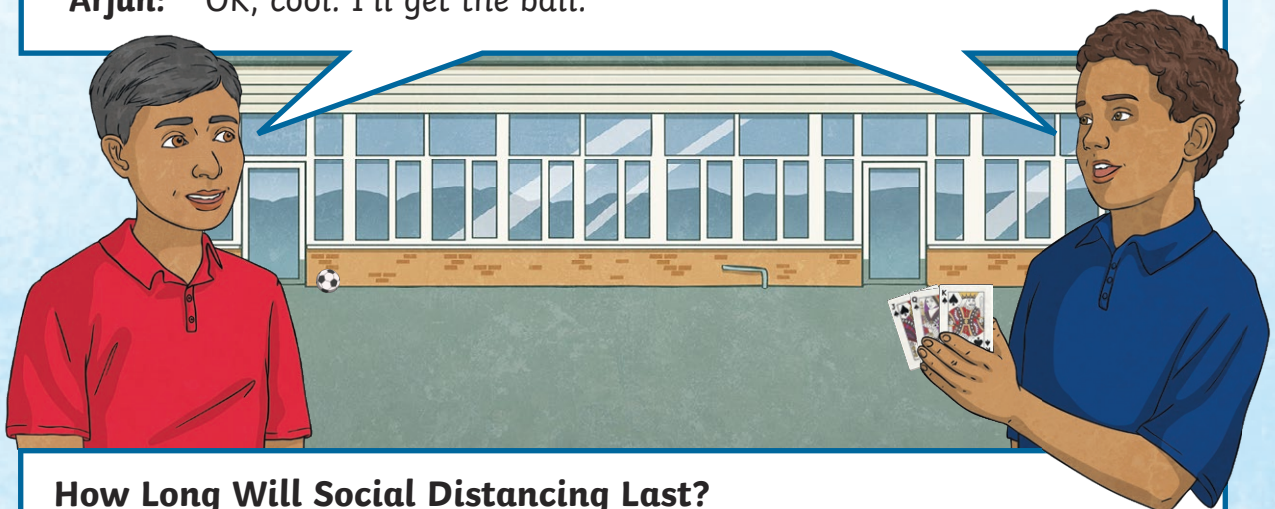
Arjun: I've just washed my hands and I won't touch you.

Theo: My mum says that virus can travel through the air in droplets from coughs and sneezes.

Arjun: What are we going to do instead then? I'm bored.

Theo: We can go and practise passing with your new football outside? We just need to remember to keep our distance.

Arjun: OK, cool. I'll get the ball.



How Long Will Social Distancing Last?

Social distancing isn't meant to last forever. Before changing any social distancing rules, a government has to think about lots of different things.

Although social distancing can affect a number of day-to-day activities, it's important to remember that it exists to help people to stay safe. There are plenty of fun things that you can do with one another while keeping a safe distance.



Questions

1. Which of these is not an example of social distancing? Tick one.

- playing games at a distance
- avoiding going to other people's houses
- visiting as many houses as possible
- keeping apart at playtime and lunchtime

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Arjun says that he doesn't feel ill.
- The two decide to practise passing a football.
- Theo says that they have to social distance.
- Arjun asks Theo to come here.

3. Fill in the missing words.

If _____ are close together, it can be easier for a _____ to travel between them.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **In school, your class...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **lots**.

5. Who introduces social distancing?

6. Summarise what you have learnt about social distancing using 20 words or fewer.

7. Explain how you think Arjun felt when Theo told him that they had to social distance.

8. What do you think will happen when Theo and Arjun play with the football?

Answers

1. Which of these is not an example of social distancing? Tick one.

- playing games at a distance
- avoiding going to other people's houses
- visiting as many houses as possible**
- keeping apart at playtime and lunchtime

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 3** Arjun says that he doesn't feel ill.
- 4** The two decide to practise passing a football.
- 2** Theo says that they have to social distance.
- 1** Arjun asks Theo to come here.

3. Fill in the missing words.

If **people** are close together, it can be easier for a **virus** to travel between them.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **In school, your class...**

Find and copy one word that means the same as **lots**.

plenty

5. Who introduces social distancing?

Social distancing is introduced by a government.

6. Summarise what you have learnt about social distancing using 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It helps to stop a virus from spreading quickly by asking people to have less contact with each other.

7. Explain how you think Arjun felt when Theo told him that they had to social distance.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Arjun felt disappointed because he wanted Theo to see his new cards.

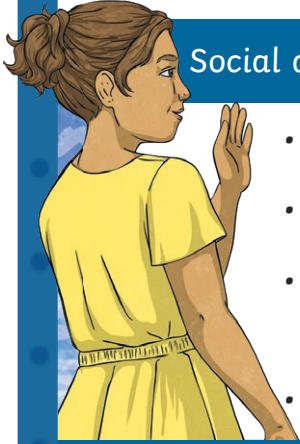
8. What do you think will happen when Theo and Arjun play with the football?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they will play football at a safe distance and Arjun will realise that you can have fun while being socially distanced.

Understanding Social Distancing

What Is Social Distancing?

Social distancing is a concept introduced by a government to try and help to reduce the spread of a virus. It includes introducing methods which aim to reduce the amount of contact that people have with each other. This means that certain activities could be different while social distancing measures are in place.



Social distancing measures may include:

- staying at home wherever possible;
- only meeting people outside while keeping a distance;
- keeping a safe distance between yourself and other people who do not live in your home;
- avoiding going to other people's homes.



Some people may be asked to stay at home for a longer period of time to help keep them protected from the virus. This can also happen if people start to show symptoms of a virus.

Why Do We Need Social Distancing?

Viruses travel as germs from person to person. This is more likely to happen if people are close together. This means that social distancing can help to stop a virus from spreading too quickly.

Social distancing is not a new idea. Governments are often prepared in advance for what to do in the event of a large-scale outbreak of a virus.

What Might Social Distancing Look like for You?

When at home, you might find that fewer people come to visit your house. This is because social distancing often means that people should try to avoid visiting other households and only meet in small groups outside. Although meeting face to face might not always be possible, families and friends can still keep in contact via video calls or messages. This means that people can take part in fun activities together (like quizzes and games) while following social distancing rules.



Understanding Social Distancing

In school, your class might be smaller than usual. A one-way system could also be put in place along corridors and breaktimes might be staggered. Although you may be asked to keep a safe distance at playtime and lunchtime, this doesn't mean that school won't be enjoyable. There are plenty of fun games and activities that can be played while ensuring that you stay safe. Take a look at Theo and Arjun for example, they've recently returned to school together and are discussing what to do at lunchtime.



Arjun: Come here, Theo. I want to show you these cards.

Theo: I can't, Arjun – we have to social distance.

Arjun: It doesn't make a difference anyway.

Theo: Yes, it does. Viruses can be spread when people with the virus stay close to people who don't have it.

Arjun: I don't feel ill though. I'm fine!

Theo: You probably are fine but some people who carry a virus don't always have symptoms straight away. Some people don't have symptoms at all.

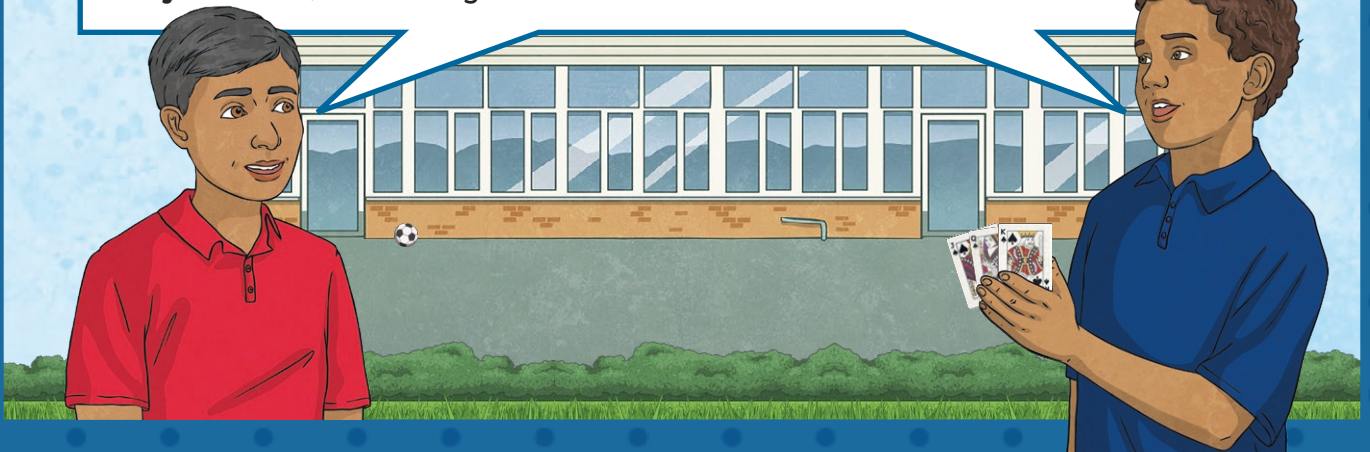
Arjun: We aren't even touching and I've just washed my hands.

Theo: My mum says that the droplets from coughs and sneezes travel in the air and mean that you are more likely to catch the infection.

Arjun: What are we going to do then? I'm bored.

Theo: We can go and practise passing with your new football outside? We just need to remember to keep our distance and to wash our hands afterwards.

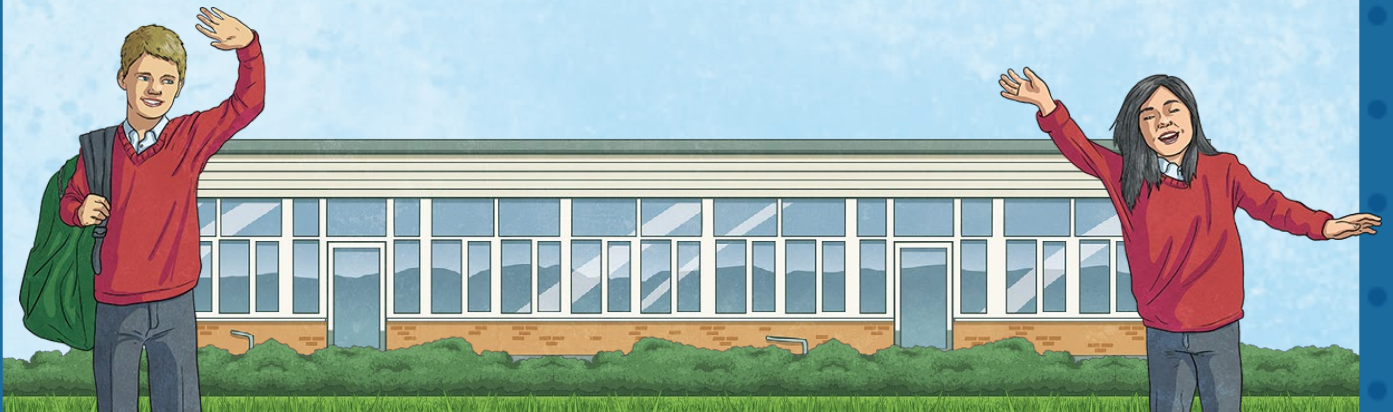
Arjun: OK, cool. I'll get the ball.



How Long Will Social Distancing Last?

Social distancing is intended to be temporary. When making any decisions about changing social distancing measures, a government will think about lots of factors. Amazingly, it is even possible that vaccines can be developed to prevent some viruses. If a vaccine is developed and administered, it could help to protect people by making them immune to the virus.

Although social distancing can affect a number of day-to-day activities, it's important to remember that it exists to help people to stay safe. While people may not be able to be in close contact with others, there are plenty of fun and safe ways that they can still enjoy each other's company.



Questions

1. **Social distancing is intended to be temporary.**

This means that... Tick one.

- ... social distancing will last forever.
- ... social distancing will last for exactly one week.
- ... social distancing is not real.
- ... social distancing is for a limited amount of time.

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Theo suggests an appropriate activity.
- Arjun says that social distancing doesn't make a difference.
- Arjun argues that the pair aren't even touching.
- Arjun says that he doesn't feel ill.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **In school, your class...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **making sure**.

4. Name one change that you might see at school when social distancing measures are in place.

5. What does the word **staggered** tell us about breaktimes?

6. Look at the script between Arjun and Theo. What impression do we get about Theo?

7. Explain how the layout of the text helps you to find specific information.

8. What do you think will happen when Theo and Arjun play with the football?

9. Compare how Arjun and Theo are reacting to social distancing measures. Who best deals with the situation?

Answers

1. **Social distancing is intended to be temporary.**

This means that... Tick one.

- ... social distancing will last forever.
- ... social distancing will last for exactly one week.
- ... social distancing is not real.
- ... **social distancing is for a limited amount of time.**

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4** Theo suggests an appropriate activity.
- 1** Arjun says that social distancing doesn't make a difference.
- 3** Arjun argues that the pair aren't even touching.
- 2** Arjun says that he doesn't feel ill.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning **In school, your class...**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **making sure**.

ensuring

4. Name one change that you might see at school when social distancing measures are in place.

Accept one of the following: your class might be smaller; a one-way system could be in place; you could be asked to keep a safe distance at playtime and lunchtime.

5. What does the word **staggered** tell us about breaktimes?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'staggered' tells us that people will have their breaks at different times in the day, rather than all at once, to keep us safe.

6. Look at the script between Arjun and Theo. What impression do we get about Theo?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Theo is clever because he understands how viruses travel. He is also brave because he stood up to his friend.

7. Explain how the layout of the text helps you to find specific information.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The subheadings help you to find specific information quickly because you can go straight to the right section instead of having to read the entire text.

8. What do you think will happen when Theo and Arjun play with the football?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that they will play football at a safe distance and Arjun will realise that you can have fun while being socially distanced.

9. Compare how Arjun and Theo are reacting to social distancing measures. Who best deals with the situation?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Theo is dealing with the situation the best; he knows not to move too close to Arjun even though he wants to play. Arjun, on the other hand, doesn't understand why social distancing is important. Also, Theo is coping with social distancing more maturely as he can explain to his friend why the measures are important.

Understanding Social Distancing

What Is Social Distancing?

Social distancing is a concept introduced by a government in order to reduce the spread of a virus among a population. It involves measures which aim to limit the contact between people. This means that certain activities may be prohibited and others could be different while social distancing measures are in place.

Social distancing measures may include:

- staying at home wherever possible;
- only meeting people outside while keeping a distance;
- maintaining a safe distance between yourself and other people who are not from your own household;
- avoiding entering other people's homes.

People who are vulnerable or particularly susceptible to a virus may be asked to self-isolate for a period of time. This can also apply to people who display symptoms of a virus.

Why Do We Need Social Distancing?

Everyone has a part to play in limiting the spread of a virus. Viruses travel as germs from person to person by close contact. This means that social distancing can limit the transmission of a virus.

Social distancing measures are not new: they are well-established and have been discussed and planned by governments for many years in the case of large-scale viral outbreaks, such as flu.

What Might Social Distancing Look like for You?

When at home, you might find that there are fewer visitors at your house. This is because social distancing measures often suggest that you avoid visiting other households where possible and only meet in small groups outside. While meeting face to face isn't always possible, many families and friends keep in contact through video calls or by sending messages and letters to one another. This way, people can take part in fun activities together while still following social distancing rules. For example, friends might take part in a quiz or siblings might film themselves putting on a play for their grandparents.



Understanding Social Distancing

When in school, your class might have fewer people in it than usual. A one-way system could be put in place and breaktimes might be staggered. Although you may be asked to sit away from one another and to keep a safe distance at playtime and lunchtime, this doesn't mean that school won't be enjoyable. There are plenty of fun games and activities that can be played while ensuring that you stay safe. Take a look at Theo and Arjun for example. They've recently returned to school together and are discussing what to do at lunchtime.



Arjun: Come here and sit next to me, Theo. I want to show you these cards.

Theo: I can't, Arjun – we have to social distance.

Arjun: It doesn't even make a difference anyway.

Theo: Yes, it does. Viruses can be spread when people with the virus stay close to people who don't have it.

Arjun: That's fine but I don't feel ill. I'm fine.

Theo: You probably are fine but some people who carry a virus don't always have symptoms straight away. Some people don't have symptoms at all.

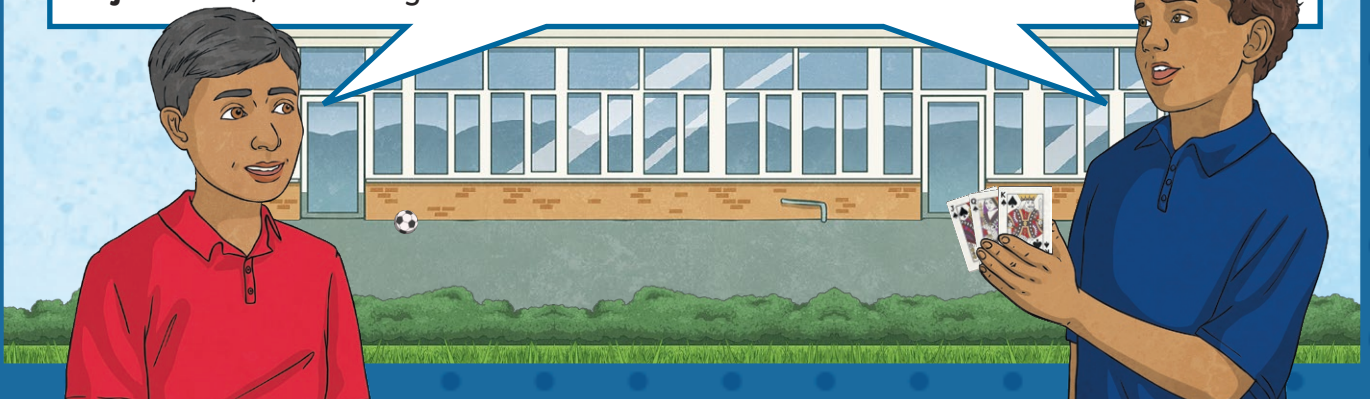
Arjun: Surely, just sitting next to me won't be a problem? We aren't even touching. I have just washed my hands.

Theo: My mum says that the droplets from coughs and sneezes travel in the air and mean that you are more likely to catch the infection.

Arjun: What are we going to play then? I'm bored.

Theo: We can go and practise passing with your new football outside? We just need to remember to keep our distance and to wash our hands afterwards.

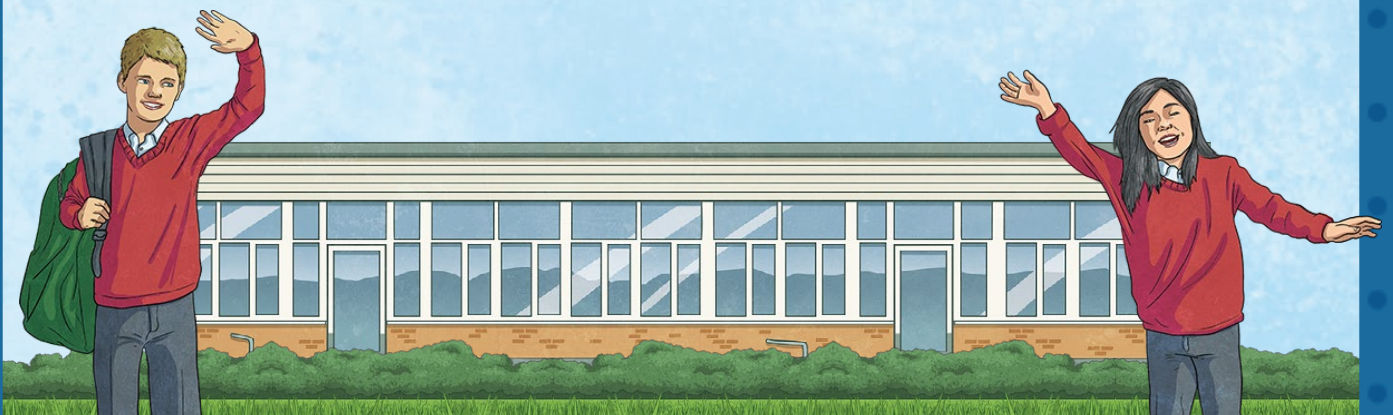
Arjun: OK, cool. I'll get the ball.



How Long Will Social Distancing Last?

Social distancing measures are intended to be temporary. While it is difficult to predict how long a virus will be active among a population, social distancing guidelines will likely change as time progresses. When making any decisions about relaxing guidelines, a government will take into account a variety of factors. Advances in modern medicine have even meant that vaccines can be developed to prevent some viruses. If a vaccine is developed and administered, it could help to protect people by making them immune to the virus.

Although social distancing can affect a number of day-to-day activities, it's important to remember that it has been put in place to help to ensure people's safety. While people may not be able to be in close contact with others, there are plenty of fun and safe ways that they can still enjoy their company.



Questions

1. **Social distancing is a concept introduced by a government...**

Tick one word which is closest in meaning to the word **concept**.

- idea
- thing
- book
- command

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Theo explains that some people don't show symptoms.
- Theo explains how viruses can be spread.
- Theo suggest an alternative activity.
- Theo tells Arjun that they have to social distance.

3. Look at the section entitled **Why Do We Need Social Distancing?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **spread**.

4. Who has a part to play in limiting the spread of a virus?

5. What does the word **staggered** tell us about breaktimes?

6. Explain why you think that the author has chosen to include a play script.

7. Contrast the characters of Theo and Arjun. How are they different?

8. Imagine that you are continuing the script between Arjun and Theo.
Write the next two lines of text.

Theo: _____

Arjun: _____

9. Summarise the context of this text using 20 words or fewer.

10. Do you think that Theo was right to stand up to his friend? Tick one.

Yes

No

Fully explain your answer.

Answers

1. **Social distancing is a concept introduced by a government...**

Tick one word which is closest in meaning to the word **concept**.

- idea**
 thing
 book
 command

2. Read the script between Arjun and Theo.

Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 3** Theo explains that some people don't show symptoms.
2 Theo explains how viruses can be spread.
4 Theo suggest an alternative activity.
1 Theo tells Arjun that they have to social distance.

3. Look at the section entitled **Why Do We Need Social Distancing?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as **spread**.

transmission

4. Who has a part to play in limiting the spread of a virus?

Everyone has a part to play in limiting the spread of a virus.

5. What does the word **staggered** tell us about breaktimes?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'staggered' tells us that people will have their breaks at different times in the day, rather than all at once, to keep us safe.

6. Explain why you think that the author has chosen to include a play script.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the author has used a play script to show people how social distancing might look as part of their everyday lives. A play script makes it easier to understand.

7. Contrast the characters of Theo and Arjun. How are they different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Theo is sensible because he explains that they can't sit close to one another but Arjun is not because he thinks that social distancing doesn't work. They are both stubborn because at the start, they both think that they are right.

8. Imagine that you are continuing the script between Arjun and Theo.
Write the next two lines of text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Theo: Excellent! I'll wait on the field for you. I'll find us a spot away from other people.

Arjun: OK. I'll make sure to keep a safe distance away from you when I get back. I'll still be the best at passing though!

9. Summarise the context of this text using 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This text is about why we might need to social distance and what it could look like in different settings.

10. Do you think that Theo was right to stand up to his friend? Tick one.

Accept either a 'yes' or a 'no' response provided that a full explanation is given.

Fully explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think that Theo was right to stand up to his friend because he was helping to keep him safe. Theo was polite and suggested a game that they would both enjoy while still being able to maintain a safe distance.