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Cases of Covid-19 in School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sorry to have to inform you that we have positive cases of COVID-19 in school. These children will now be absent from school for the required ten days. In the meantime, please be assured that we are continuing to focus on handwashing, cleaning protocols and well-ventilated classrooms.

We are also now asking parents to wear face masks when on school grounds and parents will no longer be allowed into school during the day. Please also observe social distancing during drop off and pick up.

In line with new Government guidance, as a school we are no longer responsible for identifying close contacts. This will be carried out by Test and Trace. If you are considered a close contact then you will be asked to arrange for a PCR test as soon as possible.

If you are asked by test and trace to carry out a PCR test we ask that your child does not come into school whilst you wait for the result. This request goes beyond national guidance, but will help us as a school protect our pupils, families and staff and hopefully to avoid any outbreak. We ask our families to support us in this approach.

As your child may have been in close contact, please be extra vigilant to any of the symptoms of COVID-19 - new or continuous cough, change or loss of taste or smell, high temperature – and if your child shows these symptoms please keep your child at home and arrange a PCR test. Whilst these are the still the official symptoms listed please be aware that the symptoms of fatigue, headache, fever, sore throat and loss of appetite have been noted as the top 5 symptoms in children on the Zoe App (a partly government funded system which tracks symptoms in different age groups).

If anyone develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school they will be sent home and asked to take a PCR test.

It is not a requirement for children at primary schools to take lateral flow tests, however, if adults would like to do this then that is fine. We would encourage all adults to take regular (twice a week) lateral flow tests to help identify early onset of COVID.

If as a school we have lots of children who test positive, we will involve our local health protection team and they will advise if additional action is required including implementation of an outbreak management plan. This may include wider testing of certain groups or classes.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions and thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Kind regards,

Sarah Joyce
Headteacher