



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

Monday 29th November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping well, given the current climate around Covid-19, and that you are all looking forward to the Christmas break. It is hard to believe that December is only a couple of days away.

I wanted to write to you and, if I may, take a couple of minutes of your time to give you an overview of the Covid-19 situation in school at present.

We are starting to see a sharp increase in the number of members within the school community testing positive for Covid-19 – both children and staff are being impacted. We are also starting to see some children test positive in classes that previously had Covid-19 outbreaks earlier in the academic year as well as positive Covid-19 tests being notified to us in other classes also. Over the last week or so, not even 1 day has gone by without the notification of a positive case in school. Please continue to check your child's school bag as, if a positive case is confirmed in your child's class, an ALERT LETTER is sent home with your child to inform you.

The impact of a positive Covid-19 test is difficult to manage for both children and staff alike. It is disappointing for the children as they need to take time of school, however, it is equally difficult from a school's point of view if a member of staff tests positive as our school can only operate fully if we have the correct numbers of staff, on the ground, to keep school running in a safe way. Without appropriate staffing number the school cannot open to all pupils.

I'm afraid that we are feeling the impact of low staffing levels today in school. I have had to close one of our classes as the sub teacher who has been in covering a teacher off with Covid-19 has, herself, now tested positive for Covid-19. Mrs Kernaghan and myself have spent hours trying to find a sub teacher for today, however, without any luck. Many local schools are in the exact same position. We are also short many other members of staff in roles across our school and are currently operating, albeit safely, with a low complement of staff.

You may have been aware that, within the last week, some other local primary schools have had significant numbers of pupils off school as a result of much higher outbreaks in their schools and some year groups have had to revert to remote learning in schools for up to two weeks. I am thankful that we have not yet reached this position and I hope that we do not need to make that call – however, I must be open and honest with parents and carers and let you all know that it is a back-up plan we must be ready for.

My goal is for us, as a school, to remain open every single day of the academic year for our pupils. We need to be open and to provide a great educational environment, day in, day out.



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In order for us to remain open, we must remain as close to 'Covid Free' as we possibly can and to do that, **I REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please continue to support school by helping us out in the following ways:

- If your child has ANY Covid-19 symptoms, please keep that at home. They **MUST** either isolate for 10 days or take a PCR test and await a negative result. If the result is negative, they can return to school **UNLESS** they still have a high temperature. They cannot return to school until the temperature has lowered.
- If your child is feeling unwell **IN ANY WAY – keep them at home!** Children need to remain healthy in order to 'fight off' Covid-19 should they be unfortunate to catch it. By sending your child into school with a bad cold, upset tummy etc, this has the potential to spread to other children. **Please keep your children at home if they are unwell.**
- If your child has been vomiting, they **must** remain at home for 48 hours after their last vomiting episode.

I know that keeping children at home is extremely inconvenient for some, as I know that it will impact on other aspects of home life such as parent's / carer employment etc, however, at present, we all must be extremely careful. As already mentioned, I am struggling to staff school with an adequate number of staff due to Covid-19. Please help by doing everything you can to keep the school environment as safe as possible.

If your child complains about feeling unwell in school, please be advised that the school will call and ask for them to be collected.

As always, thanks to you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Fulton
Principal