22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We detected a possible positive case of Covid-19 within school today, following the result of an asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid test. We are now awaiting the result of the confirmatory PCR test, which has been carried out at an NHS testing centre, to confirm if this case is positive or negative. Until then we are acting on the assumption that the case is positive.

We have followed the advice and guidance of Public Health and carried out careful analysis to identify potential close contacts. If you have received an official text message from school, to advise you that your child may have been in close contact with the affected person and should self-isolate at home, this letter will advise you what you need to do.

- Your child should self-isolate at home in line with the guidance below. If we receive notification that the PCR test comes back **negative**, we will inform you at our earliest opportunity and your child will be able to return to school.
- If we receive notification that the PCR test comes back **positive,** we will inform you at our earliest opportunity to advise that your child should continue to self-isolate, until Sunday 31st January.

In line with the national guidance, we recommend that your child should stay at home and self-isolate up to and including **Sunday, 31st January** which is 10 days after the last possible contact. **Your child must not come to school before this date**. Your child will be able to access their learning online, they will be familiar with how to do this. The work will be accessed through Microsoft Teams. A video showing how to access Microsoft Teams, along with home learning timetables can be found on the Home Learning page of the school website.

Siblings and other household members do not need to self-isolate unless any of you develop Covid 19 symptoms. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

If your child is well on **Monday, 1st February** then they can return to school. A negative test does not mean that they can return to school earlier.

In calculating the self-isolation end date, we have used the official national test and trace guidance under which the date of last contact with the positive case is considered to be day 1 of a 10 day self-isolation period and where day 11 is the day when self-isolation is lifted and your child can return to school.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the self-isolation period.

The following is information from the national guidance:

- If you have been informed that your child is a contact of a person who has had a positive test result for Covid-19 medical advice is clear: your child must immediately self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of their last contact with them. There is no requirement for other members of your household to self-isolate unless anyone in your household starts to develop symptoms.
- Your child must not attend school.

Link to the national guidance: Covid 19 stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

Symptoms of COVID 19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice online from NHS 111 or by phoning 111.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops Covid-19 symptoms all members of the household should self-isolate. You should arrange for a test for your child online or by phoning 119. Please contact school if you are having difficulty accessing a test.

How to stop COVID 19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

We understand that this disruption is far from ideal, but I am sure you appreciate that we have to follow clear procedures in light of a positive case. Together, our actions will be in the best interests for the health and safety of the school and wider community.

Yours sincerely,

R O'Regan
Headteacher