

# Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder



Dear Parent/ Carer,

Since my last update to you on Tuesday, there have been a further nine positive cases of Covid relating to either pupils or staff in Upper School. As communicated previously, it has reached the outbreak threshold of five or more cases in both Sycamore and Juniper. There have now been four recent cases in Maple Class as well. The large majority of the nine new cases have been staff cases that either work in Upper School or covered in there last week. We already had a number of staff out from Covid from earlier in the week and they are still currently unwell. We were able to source some agency cover last week and had booked all that we could to cover the start of this week.

Our staffing capacity is currently stretched to the maximum and we were very close to having to move to remote learning for at least one class yesterday. We are doing all that we can to remain open for face to face teaching for as long as possible. I am extremely thankful for a having a fantastic set of staff at the school, who have been extremely flexible and stepped in to support and keep classes open for face to face teaching where necessary.

The large majority of the positive cases in Upper School have come in since Friday, so please continue to engage in regular lateral flow testing in this area of the school.

Today we have also been informed of one additional case in both Middle and Lower School. Therefore, bringing a total of 11 new cases since last Tuesday.

Whilst I remain optimistic that we can remain open fully for face teaching, I also need to inform you of the rationale and procedure if we do need to move to remote learning for a class or an area of the school. As you can appreciate, the position with staffing levels is changing on a daily basis and decisions will need to be made on the variables below:

1. Status of staff currently off due to Covid status or feeling unwell.
2. Availability to provide cover, both internally and externally through supply arrangements.

Any further cases of staff absence through illness or testing positive.

Moving to remote learning is always a last resort and will always be for the shortest period possible. Therefore, we will continue to review on a daily basis using the variables above.

In order to support with your planning, I will aim to give you as much notice as possible. However, I need to reiterate that our staffing capacity is currently squeezed to the maximum. If a further member of teaching staff tests positive in the morning before coming into school, there will be a possibility of a last-minute communication. We will also look to rotate classes daily (where possible) where the staffing level has been impacted, so it is not the same class working remotely each day.

I will continue to keep you updated.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Wieder  
Headteacher

