



17th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that a pupil within your child's year group has tested positive for coronavirus using an LFT test. In line with advice from Public Health England, we have taken the decision, supported by the Enquire Learning Trust, to close the Year 4 'bubble'.

As your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus and in line with government guidance, we are asking that you keep your child at home to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance below.

[COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#)

See information below 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 coronavirus (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 the setting.
- Due to new guidance issued by Public Health and in line with local guidance (due to the high rates in our area), close contacts are advised to have a PCR test as early as possible even if they do not display symptoms. This is to find and reduce onward transmission. To add, a negative PCR result does not mean they can stop isolating. They still need to isolate for the full 10 days. Finally if contacts have had a positive test within the last 90 days they are not advised to have a further test unless new symptoms develop.

If you or your child begins to show the above symptoms you must follow the national guidance. For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. However, if you develop symptoms you must self-isolate at home and arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to arrange or contact NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Please ensure that you inform school if you or your child develop symptoms during the period of isolation as this will affect the date on which your child can return to school.





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 at the end of the 10 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities. You should not arrange for your child to be tested unless they develop symptoms and a negative test does not mean that your child can return to school earlier than 10 days.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided that your child or anyone else in the household does not develop symptoms within the 10 day self-isolation period. This means that if you have children in other year groups in school, they may continue to attend as normal unless anyone in the household develops symptoms.

Isolating means, according to the government guidance, that your child **should not leave the home** for the period of isolation. They should not go to school, or public areas, and should not use public transport or taxis. They should not accompany you to go out, even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise should be taken within your home.

Year 4 children will need to remain at home from today. As their last contact with the case was Monday 14th June, their 10th day of isolation will be Thursday 24th June. They will return to school on **Friday 25th June 2021**. They can access their learning online during this time and this can be accessed via Class Dojo.

We understand that this disruption is far from ideal, particularly when most children have not been back in school for very long since the last lockdown period closed schools to most pupils again. I am sure you can appreciate however that we have to follow clear procedures in light of a positive case in the best interests for the health and safety of the school and wider community.

Please contact school via the admin email address or Facebook Page messenger service if you have any concerns and I will get back to you immediately.

Financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating

If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:





- They are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- Are employed or self-employed
- Are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- They are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits.
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - income-based Employment and Support Allowance
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Pension Credit
- Their child or young person is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently. If you are unsure which local authority you should claim from, you can check on Find your Local Council on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kathryn Thornburn
Principal

