



Dear Parents/Guardians

1 December 2020

You will see that our newsletter this week is a single agenda item only, due to the importance of the subject matter.

As you may well be aware, the infant school currently have all children and staff in RK class (Kangaroo) self-isolating, along with all children from the BIB, due to positive Covid-19 cases in children. We wish all families a speedy recovery.

As we start the last few weeks of term and head towards the Christmas break, I want to take the opportunity to stress the importance of us all continuing to follow the guidance relating to COVID-19. The risk of parts of our school community falling ill or being forced into self-isolation over the Christmas holidays is very real. We are doing everything we can within school to avoid this situation, but we need the full school community to play their part too.

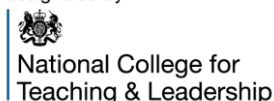
Staff, children and many families within the Boldmere Schools community have already been affected by the virus. Our primary concern is always for the individual with the virus and their swift recovery. But we must also remember that for every person testing positive, there is an impact on those close to them. We must all continue to do everything we can to reduce the risk of further cases and further periods of self-isolation.

A positive test has a far-reaching impact on the school and families. In the case of a pupil testing positive, that means their classmates and teaching staff must self-isolate for 14 days. For many parents, this impacts on their ability to get siblings to school, to work and shop for essentials. Likewise, the majority of our teaching staff are parents too and self-isolation affects their ability to take their children to school and care for their own families too.

So, I would like to remind you again of the guidance from Public Health England and the NHS and urge every parent/carer to understand and adhere to this advice at all times and to be particularly vigilant in the coming weeks.

- If your child or anyone in the household / bubble displays COVID-19 symptoms, everyone within your household should immediately self-isolate
- **Do not send your child/children to school.** Notify school that someone in your household is symptomatic and awaiting a test/test result
- Phone 119 or go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> for advice and to book a test for the person with symptoms
- Everyone in the household must self-isolate and not leave home until the test result is received
- If the result is negative, your child/children may return to school, as long as they feel well
- If the result is positive, self-isolation begins (NHS will inform you of the period of isolation- usually 10 days for the positive case and 14 days for anyone in the household)

National Teaching School
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This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

If you are unsure whether your child / household / bubble member has symptoms then please contact NHS 111 to discuss your concerns and receive appropriate medical advice.

Sticking to this guidance reduces the risk of contracting COVID-19 or facing a period of self-isolation for everyone. Our actions all have consequences so please follow the rules, work together with school and act responsibly so that everyone can enjoy their Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Welch
Acting Head of School