Friday 28th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Advice for PCR Testing**

As you are aware, earlier this month, we were advised that there had been confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school, and your child was asked to self-isolate for a short period of time. I have now been contacted by Public Health England who have explained that further analysis of these positive cases has confirmed that they were a ‘Variant of Concern’, namely the Indian Variant. As so much time has passed since these positive cases, I want to assure you that this should not cause you any concern and we have had **no further positive cases** of this variant.

Although it has been a number of weeks since the confirmed cases, Public Health England have asked for your help. In line with the national guidance**, PCR swab testing is now required for all identified close contacts** of these confirmed COVID-19 cases as soon as possible and you should then inform the school of the result.

Please see the options below on how to book a test. However, anyone who has received a positive PCR test result within the last 90 days should not re-book another PCR test. Please note that if your child’s PCR test result is positive, they should remain self-isolated for at least 10 full days from the date of the test. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others.

Booking a PCR test:

* Book a home swab test kit through the NHS portal here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/>
* By visiting your nearest local test site.

Please see the link to the PHE ‘Staying at Home Guidance’ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

**What to do if you develop symptoms of COVID 19**

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you should remain at home for at least 10 full days from the date when your symptoms appeared. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 full days. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

**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, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

**For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If you do develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

**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

**Hands -** Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds.

**Face -** Cover your face in enclosed spaces, especially where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet. It is now compulsory to wear cloth face coverings on public transport, shops and several other indoor settings.

**Space -** Stay 2 metres apart where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place. Keep your distance from people who are outside your household or support bubble.Limit social gatherings (including abiding by the ‘rule of 6’) and avoid crowded places.

**Further Information**

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

To confirm, we are asking you to arrange a Covid-19 PCR test for your child as soon as possible please. Once the results of the test have come back, please complete a short form at <https://forms.gle/T1NUtNUjwCfLFbUq7>

Thank you for your continued help and support with keeping our community safe.

Yours sincerely,

A close up of a sign

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Ms. Leah Wright  
Head Teacher