Tuesday 19th October

Dear Parent/Carer,

**COVID Update**

We are writing in light of changes made to our COVID protocols within school. We have seen an increase in positive cases during the last 10 days and have taken advice from county. In line with information we sent out at the start of the academic year we will now take a small number of additional steps to reduce the opportunity for the virus to spread:

**Additional steps**:

* We have cancelled whole school assemblies this week operating with only Key stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) having assemblies in the hall. Unfortunately, we will be unable to host the celebration assembly with parents on Friday. We will host a virtually assembly in school for classes only.
* We have moved to split lunch arrangements into. Key Stage 1 and then Key Stage 2. This allows us to sit classes as far apart as possible.
* We have created a Year 2 ‘bubble’. This means they will have break and lunchtime separately from the other children.
* Daily testing for Year 2 teaching and support staff.
* Year 2 staff to socially distance from other staff.
* We will now advise parents if their child should have a PCR test if they are deemed to be close contacts of a positive case.

In addition to the above, **we are requesting that all Year 2 children get a PCR test as soon as possible**. Children can attend school whilst waiting for the results as long as they do not have any symptoms. From tomorrow, Wednesday 19th October, we will also be asking **parents to keep siblings of any children symptomatic child at home**. If positive all children must remain at home until the 10 days isolation is over.

We will also continue to undertake the following steps, as we have done since the start of the academic year.

**Steps that we will continue to undertake**:

* Ensure children with symptoms remain at home and take an LFT test.
* Hygiene protocols strictly followed by staff and children.
* Routine LFT tests twice weekly completed by all staff.
* All class rooms, halls and corridors to be fully ventilated with doors and windows open (temperature is monitored to ensure children and staff are comfortable)
* Thorough cleaning of high touch points across the school.
* Record and ensure that positive cases isolate for the required 10 days.
* Actively encourage testing for wider symptoms.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Although the information above may cause challenges for families we are doing the very best we can in difficult circumstances to ultimately keep our school and wider community as safe as possible.

We have attached a FAQ information sheet below for you to understand the actions.

Kindest regards,

M Cunniffe

Mr M Cunniffe

Head of School

**What should I do if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?**

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

* new continuous cough and/or
* fever (temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
* loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child develops any of these symptoms, you must arrange for them to have a PCR test as soon as possible. A PCR test can be arranged via the NHS UK (www.nhs.uk) website or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if you do not have internet access.

Your child should self-isolate immediately and they should not attend school.

Please contact the school by phone to inform us your child has COVID-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a COVID-19 test.

**What should I do if my child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

Anyone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test should self-isolate until the latest of:

• 10 days after the onset of their symptoms, or

• 10 days after their test day if they are asymptomatic

Self-isolation means your child should not go to school, attend any out of school activities or visit a friend’s house. They should not visit any public places, use public transport or go out to exercise. You should not have visitors into the home except for those providing essential care.

Please contact the school by phone and inform us your child has COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test. It is really important you let us know if your child has confirmed COVID-19 so we can monitor the number of children with COVID-19 across the school.

**What should I do if my child is a contact of someone with COVID-19 confirmed by PCR test?**

If your child is aged under 18 years and 6 months and does not have any symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) they do not have to self-isolate as a contact of COVID-19.

They are advised to have a PCR test unless they have had a positive PCR test in the last 90 days.

Children aged 5 and under are not advised to take a PCR test unless the confirmed case is someone in their own household.

**What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test?**

If your child has a positive result on a lateral flow device test, they should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years and 6 months or are fully vaccinated.

**What should I do if my child is unwell with signs of an infection but does not have symptoms of COVID-19**

Your child should be excluded from school if they are unwell. If concerned you should seek advice from your GP or Pharmacist, they will be able to advise you how long your child should stay off school. Otherwise we would recommend exclusion for 48 hours or until the child is symptom free, whichever is longer. We are not currently advising that preschool children get a PCR test if they do not have the three main symptoms of COVID-19.