**SS John & Monica Catholic Primary School**



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21.09.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have received confirmation that there have been another four confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. This means that there has been a total of eight confirmed positive cases in our school.

We have informed Public Health England and have been awaiting a further phone call back from West Midlands Public Health Authority since Thursday. We continue to monitor the situation and act in the best interests of keeping everyone safe in our school community. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

As a result of new confirmed cases, the date of return for three classes have changed day (14 days from last contact between pupils and the positive case). For this reason, as of today the following table indicates the return of current classes self-isolating:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Last Contact with a Positive Case | Return to school |
| Year 2 | 10/09/2020 | 25/09/2020 |
| Year 1 | 11/09/2020 | 28/09/2020 |
| Year 3 | 10/09/2020 | 28/09/2020 |
| Year 5 | 11/09/2020 | 28/09/2020 |
| Year 4 | 11/09/2020 | 28/09/2020 |
| Year 6 | 11/09/2020 | 28/09/2020 |

**Additional Safety Measures:**

As a result of the number of positive cases in school and high infection rates in the local area, we are putting some additional measures in place on the children’s return to school:

* Staff to wear PPE equipment in classes when teaching and supporting pupils (due to the size of classrooms and the inability to maintain a 1 metre plus distance at all times)
* All Parents/Carers to wear face masks when entering the school site to drop off/collect their children
* The purchase of individual clear pencil cases and individual small hand sanitisers for all pupils
* The purchase of additional stationary hand sanitiser dispensers

We hope that the above measures to go towards helping to control the spread of the virus in school.

We recognise that this continues to be a worrying time for us all. Many schools in the local area are experiencing a similar pattern emerging and are having to send class ‘Bubbles’ home due to positive cases. Indeed, some staff members are in the position whereby their own children are being sent home to self-isolate from their respective schools. We are responding to new information and monitoring the situation on a daily basis, in order to play our part in protecting our pupils, staff and school community.

I personally wanted thank you parents for their positive emails and messages of support to our staff and school under such difficult and challenging circumstances. They are very much appreciated.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. M. Elliott

Head Teacher

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

* If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.
* All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
* The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
* 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 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
* If you are able to and can, please 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**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature
* a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or anyone in the household does 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.