



26th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been notified that several children and staff have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in our school in Early Years, Nursery and Key Stage 1. Your child has been identified as someone who is likely to have had contact with these individuals as part of a class or group.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the current situation, and to advise you on what to do next. We are monitoring the situation closely and are working with our local Public Health team to put temporary, additional measures in place to help to reduce the risk of onward transmission within our setting.

The Public Health team has advised that, **as a precaution, all children/students within this group should book a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test as soon as possible.** Your child can continue to attend school/college/nursery/childcare setting whilst waiting for their result, **unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19.**

Please also consider the following precautions:

- Limit close contact with people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces;
- wear a face covering (where age appropriate) in enclosed spaces and where they are unable to maintain social distancing;
- limit/avoid contact with anyone who is clinically, extremely vulnerable

Please see the enclosed, updated local Parent/Carer Flowchart for further information on:

- What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, or tests positive for COVID-19
- Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or who is symptomatic and is waiting for a PCR test result
- Information on self-isolation

Additional advice for children, when somebody else in their home has tested positive for COVID-19:

The [Department for Education Contingency Framework](#) describes the principles of managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 in education and childcare settings. Local authorities and directors of public health can recommend measures described in the contingency framework for individual education and childcare settings, if the number of positive cases increases substantially.

- **As part of the response to COVID-19 cases in education settings the local Public Health team are recommending 7-days of daily testing with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for students in Year 3 and above when somebody else in their home has tested positive. Public Health are also encouraging families with younger children (i.e., in Year 2 and below) to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.** Transmission in household settings is very common, even when people are vaccinated.
 - **Household contacts of a positive case who are in Year 3 and above** are also strongly encouraged to take a **daily LFD test before school or college for 7 days** and attend only if their lateral flow test is negative.



Families with younger children (i.e., in Year 2 and below) are also advised to follow this advice if they feel able to do so.

- Lateral flow tests should be taken for **7 days from the date of the first COVID-19 symptoms in the household**, or from the date of the first positive test if there were no symptoms.
- In addition to this, **all household contacts of a positive case, including children in Year 2 and below, are encouraged to follow national guidance and to take a PCR test.**
- People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days **do not** need to participate in daily LFD testing or be re-tested with PCR.
- See link below for details of how and where to get LFD tests:
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/135/coronavirus/919/rapid_tests

The following measures will also help to reduce the risk of you, and anyone you live with, becoming ill with COVID-19:

- *Get vaccinated – young people aged 12 and over can have their COVID-19 vaccination through their school, at a local catch-up clinic, or by booking an appointment at a large vaccination centre. More information about the vaccination programme is available from <https://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-information/> Book an appointment at one of the large vaccination centres by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination> or by calling 119.*
- *Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.*
- *Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.*
- *Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.*
- *Meet people outside and avoid crowded areas.*
- *Open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside.*
- *Wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places.*
- *Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for Years 7 and above). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>*

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

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Mathison
Headteacher