

Sunday 17th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many of you will be concerned about rising cases of Covid-19 in school. We understand your concerns but wish to reassure you that we are following our Outbreak Management Plan carefully.

We are currently on the Green level of the plan – the lowest level. This is because the positive cases are spread out across the school and are not clustered in one or more classes. At Green level we are restricting class attendance at assemblies and in the lunch hall, in addition to all the other safety measures such as hand washing, ventilating the classrooms and staff wearing masks.

Should our status move to Amber level, this will involve further measures such as the re-introduction of bubbles and staggered starts and ends to the school day. Should the cases continue to rise and we move into Red Level, we may be advised by Public Health England to restrict attendance at school for groups of children as a short term measure and as a last resort. We will of course keep you informed of changes to our status as soon as we possibly can.

We have received some new guidance for schools published by the Government and Public Health England.

This guidance has been put together as the case rate amongst young people across the country are the highest they have ever been and there have been problems with the processing of some PCR test results. It formalises the measures that many schools (ourselves included) have already been using on the recommendation of our local Public Health advisors.

The new guidance states that children and staff should self-isolate and **not come to school** if:

- 1. They have tested PCR positive (positive case) – 10 days' isolation. The isolation period includes the day the symptoms started or the day of the positive test result (if there were no symptoms) AND the next 10 full days.**
- 2. They are Lateral Flow test (LFD) positive and have symptoms (presumptive positive even if PCR is negative) – 10 days' isolation:**

A PCR test should always be booked in order to confirm the LFD result. However, if there is a positive LFD test and the person has symptoms, or they have repeated positive LFD tests, then the individual is presumed positive, even if this is contradicted by the PCR result.

3. **They are a household contact (parent, sibling etc.) of someone who has tested PCR positive or presumptive positive:**

*Household close contacts of the positive or presumptive positive cases should get a PCR **and wait at home until they get a negative result**, after which they can return to work or school. The recommendation is that daily LFD testing takes place following the negative PCR result and that parents are vigilant in looking for any symptoms. If the individual begins to show symptoms or tests positive on an LFD then they should self-isolate and take another PCR test.*

This guidance is in place until further notice and we will keep you informed of any changes when they happen.

We thank you for your continuing support.

Best wishes

Mrs S Svenson
Headteacher