

Friday 23rd October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Updates on current situation in school

As I am sure you are aware, we now have several members of our school community who have tested positive for COVID 19.

A number of bubbles, who are deemed to have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive, have therefore been asked to isolate at home. We have had several positive tests of staff and pupils over the last week or so. As a result, we have a number of class bubbles in school closed, as well as our Early Years Centre, isolating and learning from home. All bubbles are due back in on Monday 2nd November.

All parents/carers of these children have been informed of the particular dates of the 14-day isolation appropriate to their child. To clarify, it is only those people who are deemed 'close contact' of the individual who has tested positive, who is required to stay home, not the entire household.

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England, the LA (Local Authority) and the DfE (Department for Education). This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child and our school community as a whole. Advice from the DfE states: *'Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.'*

I also want to thank the whole school community for the continued support. Since September we have all - children, parents, staff and governors - put in a huge effort to get the school back open. Striving to provide the best possible education whilst prioritising the health and well-being of us all. One thing that has become clear during this pandemic is that it is about looking after one another and taking responsibility for our communities.

As I'm sure you know, the increasing numbers of our school community who are testing positive, reflects the rising figures locally and regionally. I can assure you that we are regularly reviewing our health and safety procedures and routines in light of the changing situation in school and the local area.

Your ongoing cooperation and support is vital, and is very much appreciated. The response to the requests to wear masks on school site has been largely excellent (please keep it up!). Although, we know our dropping off & picking up arrangements are not perfect, they are working as well as possible in the circumstances. Please could you continue to use the one-way system, and avoid stopping for any length of time at any point - to therefore prevent 'bottlenecks'. I know to help with that we need to ensure the classes are out at exact times – and we'll keep trying to maintain that every day. When you have picked up your child please don't allow them to play on the site - especially the Spiritual Garden area – but make your way straight out.

Also, as temperatures continue to drop, as per the guidance, we still have to have doors and windows open so that ventilation in classrooms is maximised. As previously mentioned at the beginning of term, it is OK for the children to come in with extra layers such as fleeces etc, and we will allow them to keep them on in the classrooms if necessary.

Today we break up for the one week half term, however if your child is currently waiting to take a test or to receive the results of a test, I would be very grateful if you could continue to follow the process of **informing the school if there is a positive result**. Please do this by emailing school at enquiries@admin.saintcuthberts.wigan.sch.uk.

By continuing to let us know if your child tests positive, we can notify and advise you and any close contacts with regards to the length of isolation and the date that your child/close contacts can return to school, to safely ensure that risk of transmission is reduced.

Should your child receive a positive result you should inform us as outlined above and follow the [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#). It is very important that you and your child follow the above guidance should your child test positive and isolate for the required period, to help reduce the spread of infection. This includes not attending any playschemes, youth provision, leisure centres or sports activities etc which may have been planned for the school holidays.

Should your child be identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive within the school, you will be contacted by the school and informed about the required isolation period and date your child can return to school. It is important that you follow the advice and guidance in relation to the isolation period to help reduce the spread of infection.

Thank you once again for your continued support. Have a good half term break and keep yourselves and your families safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Rushton

Headteacher