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Friday 19th February 2021

Dear Parent,

Temporary closure of Year 1 bubble following confirmed COVID Cases

We have been advised that there have been five confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Year 1 staff team. Staff members have become poorly during half term and have all followed the appropriate testing and notification procedures. They are now in isolation. Other Year 1 staff, who have tested negative, are however being asked to self isolate because they have been identified as contacts of positive cases.

Across the rest of the school, staff have since self-tested using the lateral flow kits provided as part of our regular testing arrangements and it appears that the cases are confined to the Year 1 bubble. This indicates that our bubble arrangements are effective.

As a result of these cases, we are unable to staff the Year 1 bubble for face to face learning during the week beginning February 23rd (Tuesday to Friday). Home learning will still be provided through the pre-recorded video sessions. We will not be able to offer the live TEAMS sessions and there may be some reduction in the level of checks and feedback we normally provide on Class Dojo. Our pastoral team will ensure each family has at least one phone call home during the week.

Children who are normally in school and are currently eligible for free school meals (not the universal offer) will be provided with food vouchers.

When a person tests positive for COVID, track and trace systems look back to contacts made over the previous two days. The timing of tests taken by school staff after they became ill means that your children **do not** need to self isolate unless they, or other family members become ill.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

For most people, especially children, COVID-19 will be a mild illness.

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

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school or public areas, even for exercise.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

When the result of the child's test is known further advice will be available.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- 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

Further information

Further information is available at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Unless you are notified otherwise, Year 1 children who normally access the in-school provision, may return to school on **Monday 1st March**.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Bowser
Headteacher