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RE: Confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have positive COVID cases within the school community, including in our pupils, staff and parent bodies.

This shouldn't cause unnecessary alarm; we have had a few cases within the school community since before Christmas. However, I am writing to you today, as we are now having new cases reported daily, across all these school groups. I know many of you may be eagerly awaiting the restrictions being lifted in care homes etc. to enable you to visit loved ones, but want to do this knowing whether you or someone in your household has been in contact with a positive case. To that end, we do have positive cases in both our Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 groups. I would stress that most schools are in a very similar position to us; this is not at all unique to our school.

If you have been keeping up with the National news lately, it won't come as a surprise to you that COVID case numbers are rising quicker in children, mainly because they are an unvaccinated group. Fortunately, the research suggests that in children, cases are usually very mild or completely asymptomatic (without symptoms).

However, we do recommend LFT testing if your child is showing any display of being unwell. We have noticed that many of the children in school, who have tested positive for COVID, haven't necessarily been displaying the main COVID symptoms, such as, cough, high temperature, loss of taste and smell, many have been displaying headaches and runny noses. Therefore, you may wish to get into the habit of completing LFT tests when your child is unwell with any of the above symptoms, to double check whether it is COVID. Obviously, you must do this anyway if your child is displaying any of the main COVID symptoms (Cough, high temperature, loss of taste and smell) as a first response.

Some parents have said they are routinely testing their children once a week, as part of family life. This may offer parents reassurance, as one in three cases are asymptomatic.

As a school, we are following Public Health England advice for schools, with some additional measures to mitigate against the rise in COVID cases. We are asking all staff to continue to wear face masks and we would welcome parents doing the same. We are continuing to have good handwashing regimens. We are also ensuring our school is well ventilated. Our COVID risk assessment is on our website, if you wanted more details of our mitigations.

Please get in touch with us to discuss any concerns.

Best Wishes,

Miss Martin

Headteacher.