

## GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been informed that 5 children in your child's class (Year 5) have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). This meets an advised threshold please see action below, this does **NOT** include sending the class home. Please note children who test positive all complete a 10 day isolation period before returning to school. Under the new Government guidance close contacts of a positive case no longer need to self-isolate if they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months or if they are fully vaccinated.

### What we have done.

We have been monitoring the situation and are working closely with the local Public Health Department.

Protective measures remain in place in all school and early years' settings, including practising good hygiene, ventilation, and regular Covid-19 testing to keep staff and pupils safe and minimise the risk of further disruption to children's education. But as we have seen a rise of cases in Year 5 we have been advised by the local Public Health Department to put extra measures in place, which include:

- Advising pupils in this year group should do a PCR Test (please see below)
- Creating a class bubble from today for the next 10 days. This means:
  - Children will have separate play times and lunch times
  - Suspension of whole school inside assemblies (replaced with outdoor or Zoom assemblies)
  - Year 5 drop off time of 9:00am
  - Year 5 collection time of 3:35pm
- Continuing enhanced cleaning

These steps will be put in place for the next 10 days. We will continue to work closely with Public Health in monitoring the situation.

**We are very sorry to inform parents that Year 5 pupils will not be able to attend the Autumn Fayre tomorrow on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September.**

### What do you need to do?

The school remains open and if your child is well, they can continue to attend as normal.

Public Health have advised that because of the number of recent cases all children in Year 5 should do a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend school as normal if they are well. If the test comes back as positive they should then follow the advice for people who test positive for COVID-19 and self-isolate. This will help to keep staff and pupils safe and minimise the risk of further disruption to children's education. **Please inform the school of the result when received.**



Associate  
School



Lab\_13



Do be alert for the symptoms of coronavirus which are:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell

See [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms)

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should get tested as soon as possible. Please be reassured that for most people, especially children, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Staff and parents should continue with regular LFD (no symptom) testing twice weekly – 3 to 5 days apart.

### **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.

#### **Do**

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19
- Meet people outside if possible and open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Continuing to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) while on public transport and in busy indoor places
- Taking regular LFD (no symptom) tests
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get a PCR test straight away and self-isolate until you get the result.
- If you're a close contact of someone who tested positive, make sure you get a PCR test and self-isolate if you are directed to do so.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze and put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

**We know that this is a difficult time for families and thank you for your support as we work to keep our school and wider community safe.**

Yours sincerely,

Mark Owen  
Headteacher

For more information see next page, and:

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) or by phone 111



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