

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Case of COVID-19

We have been advised that there has been a positive case of Coronavirus in Year 1. Under the new Government guidance (14 Dec 21) 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. Instead, they should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

What the school has done

We have done a risk assessment and protective measures remain in place, including practising good hygiene, ventilation, and regular Covid-19 testing.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health. If cases increase substantially, the local Director of Public Health may advise us to put extra measures in place. If this happens, we will write to inform you of this.

This letter has been sent out to all families in the class to let them know of the current situation.

What you need to do?

This letter is to provide advice on how to support your child. Providing your child remains well they can continue to attend school as normal.

If any of your child's LFD test results are positive they should self-isolate straight away and take a confirmatory PCR test to verify the result within 2 days. If the PCR result comes back positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the first positive test or when they developed symptoms. They do not need to continue taking LFD tests during that 10 day isolation period. If the PCR result comes back negative, contacts can leave self-isolation but should continue to take LFD tests for the remainder of the 7 days.

Please 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

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should self-isolate (this means stay at home) and get PCR 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.



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This will help to keep staff and pupils safe and minimise the risk of further disruption to children's education.

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. If you or your child is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine but have not yet had it please find more information [here](#) on how and where to get vaccinated
- Meet people outside if possible and open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- Continue to wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) while on public transport and in busy indoor places
- Take 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 visit:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/ or by phone 111



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