

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Gillespie Road, Highbury, London N5 1LH

Telephone: 020 7226 6840

Fax: 020 7354 8537

Email: office@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Website: www.gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mark Owen BEd Hon NPQH



Date: Wednesday 26th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Cases of COVID-19 at Gillespie

We have been advised that there are positive cases of Coronavirus in Reception Class and Years 3, 4 and 5. Your child has not been identified as a close contact. This letter has been sent out to all families in the Nursery, Years 1, 2 and 6 to let them know of the current situation.

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.

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

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 stay at home and self-isolate 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.

Please note that a high percentage of children testing positive for COVID at Gillespie have reported vomiting as their main symptom. Although this still not one of the recognised three main symptoms of coronavirus we would advise strongly that you test your child for COVID if they are vomiting as there is growing national evidence that this is a symptom of the current Omicron variant. If your child tests negative having vomited please note they must still remain at home and cannot return to school until after 48 hours clear of vomiting/diarrhoea.



Associate
School



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

Anyone who receives a positive LFD test result should [report their result on GOV.UK](#) and must self-isolate immediately. Previously you were required to order a PCR test to check the positive result. If your child does not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need to order a PCR test to check the positive result.

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 isolate immediately unless exempt, in which case do 7 day lateral flow testing instead.
- 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



Associate
School

