

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Date: Wednesday 26th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been informed that a number of children in your child's class Year 3 have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). 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. Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

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 this class we have been advised by the local Public Health Department to put extra measures in place, which include

- Advising pupils in this class should do a daily LFD testing for 7 days (please see below)
- Year 3 class will be put in to a class bubble during this period which means that the pupils will not mix inside the building with other children for example during assemblies and will sit separately in the lunch hall
- Instigating 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.

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 3 should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days, starting immediately. Your child can continue to attend school as normal if they are well and if the test results are negative. Not being able to take an LFD test is not a valid reason for being absent from school.

If any of your child's LFD test results are positive, they must self-isolate immediately and you should report their result on GOV.UK. 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 is a temporary measure and is subject to review.

Your child must self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the first positive test or when they developed symptoms. They may be able to end their self-isolation period before the end of the 10 full days. They can take an LFD test from 5 days after the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if they did not have symptoms), and another LFD test on the following day. The second LFD test should be taken at least 24 hours later. If both these test results are negative, and they do not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result. People ending isolation early are strongly



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advised to limit contact with vulnerable people, not visit crowded or poorly ventilated spaces, and work from home where possible.

Please inform the school of the results when received.

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

If your child develops ANY of the three main symptoms of COVID-19, they should 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.

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.

Staff, 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. 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

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



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