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Headteacher: Mrs. L. Ashton

Tuesday 11th January 2022

FOR PARENTS INFORMATION REGARDING ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have been advised that there have been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school, particularly in Year 5 and Year 6. NHS test and trace will be in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice. For full details of the guidance please see www.gov.uk/backtoschool

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

We have sought advice from our local Public Health team and in line with our contingency plan, which all schools are required by the DfE to have in place, we will be re-introducing the following measures:

- Bubbles – Year 5 and Year 6 will return to a Bubble system for 14 days
- Testing –If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6, we would ask that you test your child every morning for 7 days
- All visitors to the school site to wear a mask including parents collecting their child from the school grounds

Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Confirmatory PCR testing following a positive result on a lateral flow device (LFD) will be temporarily suspended from today, Tuesday 11 January. This means that for all education and childcare settings, staff and students who have tested (either at home or through ATS) and reported a positive LFD result will no longer be advised to get a confirmatory PCR test.

This change is informed by public health advice. With high COVID-19 rates, the risk of a positive LFD result being false is very small. We therefore don't need to ask people to do a confirmatory PCR unless they:

- have symptoms (in which case they need to follow the stay at home guidance, self-isolate and order a PCR test)
- wish to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment
- have been advised to take a PCR test because they are in a clinically vulnerable group

- have been advised to do so as part of a research or surveillance programme

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken.

It is now possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day.

This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

What to do if there is a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in your household?

Daily LFT testing for 7 days for any adult or secondary age pupil or primary pupil aged 5yrs and older who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive*.

*Note: People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days should not be encouraged to test unless they develop new symptoms

Help, support, and further information.

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ashton
Executive Headteacher

