



GFSchools

Believe Learn Flourish

With
Faith Hope Love



Pam Acheson
Executive Headteacher

Sunday 7th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know there has been a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school community. We are close to reaching 5 cases and if this happens then we will be following advice from Public Health and the Local Authority.

Schools are no longer expected to identify the close contacts of cases of COVID-19 (unless in very exceptional circumstances) - this is done by the national Test and Trace system. Test and Trace may be in touch with you in the coming days if your child is identified as a close contact by them, but as a school we will not pass personal contact details on to the cases to share with Test and Trace.

Children who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 are no longer required to isolate unless they develop symptoms. However, they are advised to get a PCR test, and they are at a higher risk of developing COVID-19 in the days after the contact. They do not need to isolate while they wait for the result, unless they have symptoms.

If however any of the positive cases have siblings in other year groups, we would recommend that they also take a PCR test. If the siblings are likely to present a high risk of onward transmission (for example, younger pupils who may not be able to follow social distancing, or if parents are also positive) then we recommend that they stay at home until they have a PCR result.

Your child should continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or are unwell. If they do develop symptoms, please keep your child at home and book a PCR test for them.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain a fever (temperature 37.8°C or higher), a new continuous cough, or a change to/loss of taste or smell. However, other commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek testing if you are in any doubt.

We have had positive cases where the children have displayed no symptoms at all so we would recommend regular lateral flow testing at home if possible, to help identify any asymptomatic cases.

The school has a contingency plan in place which is triggered at 5 cases but the school has made the decision to go back to class bubbles from tomorrow where the children will not mix with children from other classes during break times and lunchtimes; Collective Worship will be done in class bubbles; there will be no face-to-face meetings with parents and face coverings will be worn by staff in communal areas. This will be reviewed over the next week.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Pam Acheson
Executive Headteacher