

School Update – 17.01.22

Dear families,

We are currently experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 at school, which is understandably worrying for everyone in our community. As a school, we have been extremely fortunate to not have experienced many cases which we are thankful for but, when an outbreak occurs, we want to ensure that we are doing everything possible to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

We have spoken to Norfolk Public Health Management Centre today, following our calls to them on Friday and Saturday. We have updated them with the current positive cases that have been reported. They continue to be satisfied with all the measures that we have in school and commented that we have done well to not have experienced an outbreak before now. They are there to support us through this time and give further advice on what we can do. We are currently in a position where the current positive cases are not affecting staff significantly, which means we can still keep face to face teaching going; this is the priority for education settings. If we do have to close year groups, it will be due to staff absence.

Important recommendation from Public Health

Public Health have recommend that all our families carry out an LFD test with all children aged 5 or above. This is not mandatory but highly recommended by public health as a one off because of our case rates. We ask that you carry this out TOMORROW MORNING (Tuesday, 18th January) before coming to school.

We have created a form for you to alert us to any new positive cases so that we can ensure we don't overwhelm our phone lines in the morning. We appreciate not everyone may have LFD tests available to them, ready for tomorrow but where you have, we would appreciate your co-operation. There is no need to complete the form, if your child has already tested positive and you have informed us of this: <https://forms.office.com/r/S8Qk52UpvW>

It is very important that, if the test does come back positive, that you follow government guidelines of

isolation <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

If a positive test leads to isolation, the new rules say that negative LFDs on Day 5 and 6 can end the isolation. The day of symptoms or a positive test are counted as zero and the next day is Day 1. It is very important that children do not come back to school too soon as they may still be infectious.

We can't thank you enough for all the support and confidence you have shown to us as a school throughout this pandemic. As you can imagine, as a school, we hoped that we would not be in this situation but it is important that we continue to do everything we can to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thank you