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Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this week. It was inevitable that at some point we would have to deal with a case of Covid-19 in school and that it would be necessary to send groups of children home to self-isolate.

Sadly, this is likely to happen more often over the course of the next few months and is something we have no control over. As a school, we are doing all that we can to reduce the transmission of CV-19 and the impact of positive cases to school but we must adhere to the correct procedures when they arise. When we are informed of a positive case, we follow the guidance from Public Health England and the Department for Education; I fully appreciate that this has implications for families and causes anxiety and stress, particularly when it comes with no prior warning. Please bear in mind that your child could be identified as a close contact of a positive case on any day; I recommend that you have a plan in place to cover such an eventuality.

I would like to make it very clear to all parents that the current procedures that we must follow are straightforward and there is absolutely no room for flexibility. As stated in correspondence earlier this week, do not phone up and ask for further details – they will not be provided as all cases are dealt with confidentially.

When we are advised of a positive test, we work with our local health protection team to identify who has been a close contact of the affected individual and when the self-isolation date needs to start from – for that reason the time your child is off school may not be 14 days from when you are informed but please rest assured that it has been carefully calculated to ensure the correct amount of self-isolation is being observed.

Please follow the instructions provided on the self-isolation letter and ensure that your child **remains at home** for the period of self-isolation. You should not book a test for them unless they subsequently develop symptoms; a negative test will not mean they can return to school before the end of the self-isolation period.

It is also vitally important that when you come to school, you are not mixing with other families or stopping to have conversations – even though you are outside, **a reduced risk is still a risk** and you should continue to maintain social distancing at all times. As it is so busy around school during drop off and collection, we recommend that you wear a face covering, avoid close contact with others and wash your hands before and after coming to school.

Please keep in mind that those you encounter may not be taking the same safety precautions as you and you could be inadvertently putting yourself at risk. Additionally, if you are asymptomatic (have coronavirus but are not ill or have no symptoms) you are putting others, who may be vulnerable, at risk.

Coronavirus is not going away but, if we all work together and do what is asked of us, we **can help** to reduce transmission and the impact to our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

With very best wishes

Mrs Jennifer M Gill

Head Teacher