

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **Positive cases of COVID-19 in 6 Acacia**

Dear Parents / Carers of children in 6 Acacia

I am writing to you to inform you that there have been several cases of COVID-19 in your child's class over the last few days. We need to ask you to test your child so we can prevent the onwards transmission of the virus. It is important that anyone aged 5 and above who is a close contact of someone who tests positive, takes a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days, if possible. So far, this has enabled us to identify a number of asymptomatic children (those who are positive but do not show any symptoms), which will in turn help stop the spread of the virus.

The local Public Health department are satisfied with all that we have done so far and continue to do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. They have also confirmed that it is likely more children will test positive in the coming days. However, they were also clear that COVID-19 is tending to be a relatively short-lived illness now, and though it can be unpleasant for a short period, is not causing severe illness in most cases. Although worrying, I hope this gives you some reassurance.

We are doing everything we can to maintain safety in the school to minimise the risk of the virus spreading amongst our school community.

### **What are we doing?**

In conjunction with Public Health, along with the measures that are already in place, until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March we will be:

- Increasing cleaning of the high touch point areas and the toilets used by Year 6 children
- Minimising movement around the school building for children in 6 Acacia, as much as possible
- Only doing PE lessons outside for 6 Acacia – there will be no indoor PE sessions
- Moving to class assemblies for 6 Acacia – there will be no year group or phase group assemblies in the hall
- Class windows will be fully open throughout the day.

### **What do you need to do?**

*If your Child has Symptoms:*

If your child has any of the key COVID-19 symptoms, particularly high temperature as appears to be common in Omicron variant, you should still get a PCR test as soon as possible and isolate until you get your results.

*If Your Child is Fit and Well (no symptoms):*

If your child is well and is coming to school, we ask that you test them using an LFD device as close to coming to school in the morning as possible so that we quickly identify any asymptomatic children (as has already been the case). As of 11<sup>th</sup> January, if you test positive on an LFD test, you should isolate immediately and register your result on <https://www.gov.uk/report-COVID-19-result> to get additional advice and support if needed during your isolation period; you do NOT need to get a follow-up PCR test.

### **Why are we not shutting the class?**

High quality face-to-face education remains a government priority and research has shown that the impact of missing face-to-face education during the pandemic is severe for children, young people and adults. In all cases, any benefits in managing transmission should be weighed against any educational drawbacks.

Removing face-to-face teaching is an absolute last resort where all other risk mitigations have not broken chains of in-school transmission. A Director of Public Health may advise introducing short-term attendance restrictions in a setting, such as sending home a class or year group. Public Health are clear that we are not at this point; we will continue to assess and review the situation with them. With your help, such as continuing to test for 7 days as a close contact, or following a regular twice-weekly LFD testing routine for all adults, we can work together to reduce the spread of the virus.

I appreciate this is a difficult time for everyone and people have different opinions about what is the right thing to do. I hope this letter provides some reassurance for you all that we are taking the situation seriously.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any questions and, as always, we will do all we can to support you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sansom

Headteacher