



Rushwick C.E Primary School
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Wednesday 19th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 Update

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19, the school leadership and staff are completely focused in keeping every aspect of our school running this term. Although things are not back to normal, we are definitely at the stage where children need to be in school for their mental, social and academic wellbeing. Every year group is being provided with a normal broad and balanced curriculum.

As many of you are aware, we do have children and some staff testing positive for Covid19. This was to be expected, especially with primary aged being unvaccinated and therefore more prone to catching the Covid-19 virus.

As of today we have 18 children off isolating, most of whom have confirmed positive Covid-19 cases. The numbers are fairly well split across all year groups from Reception to Year 4, with none at present in Years 5 and 6. We also have a handle of staff who have tested positive or who are absent for other reasons. This has meant we have had to be very creative with our use of staff. I am also incredibly grateful and proud of the way everyone is going out of their way to support each other. I include the children and the overwhelming majority of parents /cares in this.

I can reassure everyone that all numbers positive cases are shared with LORT. We have an allocated official working with us who is providing strong support and advice. It remains very important that all confirmed positive results are shared with us directly via covid@rushwick.worcs.sch.uk , so that we can track any spread.

It is impossible to totally prevent the Omicron variant from spreading, especially among unvaccinated children. It is reassuring to know that the evidence is that the predominant strain is much milder and that Lateral Flow Tests are extremely accurate.

In dealing with cases touching at 10% of the school population spread across our school setting, we have risked assessed that it is not practical, nor no longer in the children's best interests, for us to operate in separate class bubbles. Instead we are largely managing Year R, 1 and 2 as one large bubble and KS2 (years 3, 4, 5 and 6) as another bubble. This enables us to use teams of staff to support one another and support the children across the whole school day. On top of this we are carrying out the usual enhanced hygiene, health and safety measures (e.g. ventilation, deep cleaning at the end of every day, regular handwashing, strict limits on visitors). Staff are carrying out at least twice weekly lateral flow testing and we urge all parents / carers to keep doing the same with your

children. Additionally, if anyone is feeling unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, it is important that they do not attend school and that a PCR test is taken as soon as possible.

A Reminder of Covid-19 Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to Stop COVID-19 Spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

Do

- *Wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.*
- *Wash your hands as soon as you get home.*
- *Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.*
- *Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.*

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17 January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

With national Covid19 restrictions on track to be eased over the coming weeks, there is every indication that all of school life will return to even closer to normal as we approach spring.

As usual, if you have any concerns or questions please do approach me in the playground or make contact via the school office, either by telephone or email. Thank you for all your support.

Yours sincerely



Geoff Jeffrey (Headteacher)