



WIMBLEDON CHASE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1st October 2021

Dear Parents,

As we move towards more Autumnal weather, I thought I would update you on our COVID school risk assessment and plans that we have in place if there were to be a COVID outbreak at school. Unfortunately, we had 3 positive cases at school last week (we followed the guidance of whom we should inform) and we know that other local schools experienced a number of cases.

The Government guidance that we are following (which was reviewed again on 27th September 2021) means that the NHS now tests and traces close contacts of any positive cases. It also means that we will not be sending 'bubbles' home if there were a positive case in a class and that we have health and safety measures in place to mitigate the spread of infection at school.

However, in order to help with the test and trace process and to enable us to support the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable members of our school community when we have a positive case, we do the following:

- Each class has a seating plan of where children sit and we keep a close track on children attending clubs (so that we can help with information if asked for NHS test and trace)
- Any child or family that are medically vulnerable to the virus are contacted directly by the school to inform them, where this has been agreed with the family. If you feel that a household member is medically vulnerable and you have not yet spoken to the school about this, please contact Mrs Dotchin.
parentsupportadvisor@wimbledonchase.merton.sch.uk
- When there is a positive case in a class, we will write to the parents of that class to inform them and ask them to be extra vigilant about their children developing symptoms.
- If a child is displaying signs of COVID, even if mild (a high temperature, a persistent cough, a loss of taste or smell) then we will ask parents to keep their child at home and to get a PCR test. If the PCR is negative then the child can return to school if they are well enough.
- We report all cases to the local authority.
- We will not always write to the whole community about a case, but we will write to parents of a year group if there were an outbreak of cases in that year group (the guidance is 5 or more linked cases across the year group or 3 or more cases in a class).

In the case of an outbreak at school the COVID team would:

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- Consult with Public Health England (or the National Institute for Health Protection which will be taking over From Public Health England), Merton's Infection Prevention & Control team and the London Coronavirus Regional Centre (LCRC).
- Put in contingency plans which might include measures such as reinstating the year group as a bubble (where those children eat and play as a bubble and attend assemblies virtually), ensure that relevant staff only work with the children in the bubble and not across the whole school, and for those children to not attend clubs until the outbreak is contained.

We are continuing with our key messages that:

1. Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools - this includes staff and the local community continuing with LFD tests. The guidance is that LFD tests are designed for asymptomatic testing and anyone with COVID symptoms should have a PCR test.
2. Good hygiene routines are key, including frequent and thorough hand cleaning and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
3. Appropriate cleaning regimes are maintained.
4. Occupied spaces are kept well ventilated.

Other illnesses

We would ask parents to support us by keeping their children at home if they not well enough for school (even if they are not displaying typical COVID symptoms). The NHS inform us that they are expecting higher levels of usual winter bugs this year and our priority remains to keep our community well and minimise disruption to our education provision.

Our updated School Risk Assessment and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the school website under [Protective Measures \(please click here\)](#).

You will also find the NHS guidance for parents useful – [please follow this link](#).

Once again, thank you for your support.

Best wishes



Mr. K. Ellis
Headteacher