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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Irwin

29th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Update

I am just writing to give you a brief COVID update and to share some Public Health information below.

At the moment we only have 1 pupil case in school; however, we now have 3 staff members positive who are isolating at home.

Clearly having 3 members of staff off in a school of our size has a significant impact and we need to be extra vigilant to ensure that these numbers do not increase. If your child has any symptoms at all please can we recommend that you take them for a PCR test, as we know of several cases where the lateral flows have not picked up the infection.

We have been issued with additional guidance from Barnsley MBC & the local Public Health team saying that the number of cases in Barnsley communities continue to cause concern and although cases may have reduced overall, schools across the area are seeing a rise in cases again.

The Public Health Team have provided the following updated advice to families:

- Please remain vigilant for the development of any COVID-19 symptoms in your child, even if they are mild. These can include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste.
- If you have concerns that your child may be displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please do not send them to school, they should isolate and take a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online at gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.
- All positive cases should follow Test and Trace legal advice and isolate for 10 full days after their symptoms appeared.
- If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk/ or by phoning 111.
- In addition to the above, we would like to request that any members of your household who are aged 11 years or above, continue to undertake twice weekly LFT testing, as standard. If you do not have any home testing kits, you can order them for free at gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests. Please also remind anyone who is eligible in your household to access their COVID-19 vaccinations, if they haven't already. Everyone aged 12 and over can book COVID-19 vaccination appointments online at nhs.uk/covidvaccine or by calling 119.



We are currently reviewing the risk assessments for the all the upcoming festive activities in line with the guidance from Public Health & BMBC. Following these reviews any changes that will need to be made will be communicated to you at the earliest possible opportunity.

Please can you continue to keep us updated with the reasons for any absence by contacting the school office (01226 763020). Positive test results can also be reported to me by email (h.rolling@oxspringprimary.co.uk) if they arrive over a weekend.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

Warmest regards

Helen Rolling

Deputy Head teacher