

10th December 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

COVID-19 Update

As you will know from our weekly letters, we have been very fortunate in not having had any positive COVID cases amongst our school staff over the last few months. We have in place a series of processes and ways of working which have become routine across the school and I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for following these routines, which are helping minimise the risk of COVID within the school.

We have, however, now had a positive case within the school community and, as you would expect, we have immediately contacted the experts at Public Health England (PHE) and the DfE for their instructions on what, if any, further action we need to take. Their advice is clear that, no students or staff need to self-isolate. They have made clear, therefore, that all students should continue to come to school. Had the experts' advice been different, we would of course still have followed it in full.

Should an incidence arise where students need to self-isolate as a precaution, we will provide online learning for those not at school. We will always update parents of those impacted by any positive cases in the school so you can be fully informed on any action you or your child needs to take.

As you will be aware, cases of COVID-19 are currently not high locally but we do need to do everything possible to protect students and staff from infection. It is vitally important at the moment, that we all continue to remain highly vigilant even though the risk to young people is very small. Once again, there are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash our 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 our hands as soon as we get home;
- cover our mouth and nose with a tissue or our sleeve (not our hands) when we cough or sneeze;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash our hands afterwards.

If your child shows any symptoms of COVID-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) please do not send your child to school but go to the dedicated NHS 111 COVID site, https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/ for details of what you need to do and contact the school office team immediately if you have a positive case confirmed.

Yours sincerely

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