



The Acorns
Primary and Nursery School
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Executive Headteacher
Mrs Hannah Broom BA(Hons) NPQH

Monday 18th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you would expect, we are constantly monitoring the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 we have within our school setting at any one time so that we are aware at the earliest opportunity if the number of cases meets the threshold set by the Government. When the threshold is met, we are required to consider whether temporary, additional COVID -19 control measures are required.

The threshold set by the Government is:

- Five children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period, OR
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period.

We are writing to all parents/carers to explain the additional, temporary measures we have put in place today as more than 4 cases have been identified in 2 classes and this meets the threshold.

We know that you may find this concerning but it is recognised that education settings may meet the threshold from time to time and we are continuing to monitor the situation and work closely with Public Health England and our local Outbreak Management Hub. The fact that you are receiving this letter does not mean that your child is a contact of a case. If your child has been identified as a contact of a confirmed case, you will have received a separate letter advising you of this. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

The measures that we have put in place across the school are:

- The internal 'lockdown' of the 2 classes where the threshold is met, meaning the classes will now not be mixing with other classes
- The 2 classes will not be able to attend before or after school clubs for the remainder of the week, including Magic Breakfast
- The children in these classes are now using separate toilets to the other pupils in school
- The school has again increased ventilation and additional cleaning routines, including increased personal hygiene measures
- Staff are now returning to social distancing with other adults not working in the same class as them

All of these temporary, additional measures aim to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in school, and a review will be carried out shortly to decide whether some or all of the additional measures can be removed or whether they

should remain in place until the next review. Scheduled reviews are in addition to the daily monitoring of case numbers in the school. If any further measures are recommended, we will share the details with you as soon as possible.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of:

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

If your child develops any of these symptoms, then arrangements should be made for them to take a PCR test as soon as possible. Your child should remain at home while awaiting the PCR test result. Please note that we are also sending students home if we believe they have a symptom requiring a PCR test. Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus. Please keep us informed of the result of the test.

What to do if your child is generally unwell

If your child is unwell with general symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose, and/or headache/muscles aches, they should not attend school to avoid spreading infection within the school setting. We may send students home if we believe they present a risk of infection to other students.

What to do if your child is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19

We would ask all parents/carers of children in school to arrange for a PCR test for their child/children if they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19. Please note that your child can attend school while waiting for the results of a PCR test providing that they do not have any symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support and please rest assured that we will continue to monitor the situation carefully and to be guided by the advice of our Local Public Health Team. I will keep you updated as necessary.

Kind regards,

Mrs H. Broom

Executive Headteacher