



25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**COVID – 19 UPDATE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have seen a very sharp rise in the number of Coronavirus cases reported at school over the past ten days. The key message is not to panic. Some year groups have been hit harder than others and a number of teaching and support staff have had to self-isolate. Yet despite the many challenges we have had to face, the children and staff have remained resolute and positive in the face of adversity.

Like every school in the country we must have a break out plan in place to mitigate the continuous spread of the virus. ***As such we won't be shutting classes or reverting back to children being taught and socialising in year group bubbles. The most important thing we must do is to ensure that school remains open.***

Where class teachers test positive for COVID-19, our excellent support staff will cover classes for a short period of time and where we can, supply teachers will be used. However, it is not always possible to find good quality supply staff. We only use a small number of supply agencies because of the excellent working relationship we have built up with them over a number of years. Often their staff are booked out to other schools, such is the demand for their services. It is impossible for staff to let me know if they are going to be ill two or three days in advance of any symptoms developing and as a result this can prove incredibly challenging if classes need covering. Mrs Taylor myself and other members of the school's senior leadership team work very closely to ensure that the children's education is disrupted as little as possible.

I would encourage you all to test your children regularly using Lateral Flow Tests and to inform the school office should they test positive. Please continue to support the school in all that we do and remember – DON'T PANIC.

Yours sincerely

C Soyka  
Headteacher