

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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Headteacher: Mr David Wood



20th January 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Positive Covid Cases within the Community

I am writing to advise you that we have been made aware that there have been positive cases of Covid-19 confirmed within the community.

The cases involve a family who have two children in the Ladybirds' Class. Parents and children have tested positive. I am pleased to say that the children have not displayed any symptoms and are currently enjoying the home learning that is being provided. The children will remain off school until their isolation period expires. Parents are displaying symptoms and are recovering at home.

What does it mean for my child and the school?

Following consultation with the Staffordshire Local Outbreak Team they have confirmed that the school needs to take the following action;

- Children in Ladybirds do not need to self-isolate and the class is able to remain open currently.
- This is because the children have been away from the school environment for more than 48 hours prior to taking and receiving a positive test result, and at this point the children were not displaying any of the Covid 19 symptoms.
- This means that the children and staff within the Class are not deemed to be close contacts under the current government rules around testing.

We understand that these are anxious times for everyone and appreciate your understanding.

Critical Workers

As you will recall I sent a letter to you at the end of last week asking Parents and Carers to keep your children at home if you possibly can.

Thank you to those Parents who have contacted the school this week and are now keeping their children at home on the days when they are not working, or if there is a family member at home who is able to support with home learning.

We currently have around 40-45% of children in school, a slight reduction this week. This compares to 21% of primary aged pupils nationally.

These local cases have served as a reminder that the virus is very much present in our community. It can be passed on completely unknowingly as many of us can carry it without displaying the symptoms. Therefore, I am asking again that if any of you fall into this category then please contact the school.

If we are to reduce the number of children within school, we all need to work together to do so. Less

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children will mean a lower chance of in-school transmission and fewer positive cases. We all know the benefits of this, of which I am sure you are aware. Speaking from my professional perspective, this will mean that we are less likely to have any bubbles close or indeed a whole school closure, and more widely, schools will be able to fully open sooner, rather than closures potentially continuing beyond the current government announcement of February half term.

If someone in your household displays symptoms

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are 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 anyone develops any of these symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and arrangements should be made for them to be tested. At that time all other household members must also stay at home, not go to work, school, public areas or even for exercise.

Face Coverings

Thank you to everyone who is remembering to wear a face covering when coming on to the school site at drop off and collection times.

We are asking again that if you are not wearing a mask then please do so. You yourself may not feel the need to, but out of consideration for others who may have underlying medical conditions or a family member who has, we ask that you wear a face covering. If you have a specific medical condition that prevents you from doing so, then please inform the school office staff.

Thank you.

Stay safe.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Wood".

David Wood
Headteacher