



HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Having been in contact with Public Health England and the Local Authority Health & Safety team yesterday, we just wanted to clarify a couple of things.

Firstly, despite the authorities agreeing that it was the correct decision to close the Year 3 class on Monday, following a positive Covid-19 test result from one of the children, we must confirm that these children and staff do not legally have to isolate and remain in their homes. This is due to the positive test result being outside of the 48 hour period from when the infected child had last been in school. However, we would strongly recommend that those children and staff do continue to isolate for 14 days (until 18.12.20), as it is still possible that the child was infectious when they were last in school and it is only right that we take extra caution, due to having other positive cases within the school.

We must also make it clear, that this DOES NOT mean that any of the Year 3 children or staff are now able to return to school before the end of the term.

Secondly, we wanted to assure you that we are in regular contact with and acting on the advice of the Local Case Management Team and Public Health England. We are also continuing to closely follow both Government and Local Authority safety guidance. In fact, the Local Authority audited our Covid-19 Risk Assessment yesterday and they were very happy with the measures that we were taking, such as how we were managing to keep groups and their resources separate, ventilating all classrooms/areas, sitting pupils at desks facing the front (Y1-6), suspending singing (Y1-6) and high impact contact sports, suspending peripatetic music/sports teaching, washing hands frequently, increasing cleaning and staff wearing masks and/or face shields in communal areas. Staff are also maintaining social distancing and avoiding close contact with each other, and with pupils where possible and appropriate. However, we must state that social distancing between pupils, particularly the youngest, is neither expected or possible.

Please remember, if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. We would also strongly recommend getting a test as soon as possible. Please also let us know if your child is isolating due to developing symptoms, if they have taken a test and particularly as soon as they or a member of their household have tested positive. This will help us to take the right precautions at the setting.

When a child or adult has tested positive, the rest of their household and any close contacts MUST isolate for 14 days. However, if your child is having to isolate due to being in close contact with someone who has tested positive and they do not develop any symptoms, then the rest of their household and close contacts do not have to isolate.

Therefore, the expectation is that, all children should continue to attend school unless they are unwell or displaying possible symptoms of covid-19, have tested positive for Covid-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19.

Finally, while we are working extremely hard to provide education to all children, including those having to isolate, it is extremely difficult for staff to maintain regular contact with individual children throughout the day, particularly if they are teaching the rest of the class in school. Teachers and Teaching Assistants are busy all day long and often working without any breaks, particularly at the moment, as we are missing a number of staff. Also, while we are very empathetic and will endeavour to be as accommodating to your individual circumstances as we possibly can be, we're afraid that there is no expectation for schools to provide remote learning to children who could and should be in school.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Simon Minter
Head Teacher



Trevor Wainwright
Chair of Governors