



St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School
Willowcroft, off Warwick Avenue, Quorn, Loughborough, LE12 8HQ.
Telephone: (01509) 412250

07/09/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide further details regarding our response to cases and circumstances involving COVID. Despite the progress being made, I think personally and as communities, we are still all concerned to some degree, whether health-wise or in terms of reducing any further impact on learning.

Firstly though, I would just like to say 'thank you' for calling in and working things through with us thus far. Both in and out of school, guidance continues to evolve and we are very much trying to pull together the NHS, Public Health England (PHE) and Department for Education (DfE) guidances, to support the right advice.

With this in mind, I thought it might help to set out some of our developing protocols, as responses to questions.

My child has a cold should they be in school?

We will ask whether their symptoms include a new continuous cough, a high temperature and/ or a loss of taste or smell?

If **yes**, we will recommend a PCR test is done - an LFD test is not sufficient to determine this - and request they isolate until the result has come.

If **no**, we will ask whether your child is well enough to be in school?... if so, they can attend. If too ill to come in, they will be recorded as 'ill'.

Please be aware: if your child develops any of the above symptoms whilst in school, we will of course call to ask for them to be collected and subsequently, advise a PCR.



A parent or sibling has had a positive PCR result – If my other child/ren has a PCR test too, can they be in school?

If the child **has symptoms** - NO... please wait for your child's result - they can then be back in school **if negative and they are well enough.**

If the child **has no symptoms** (i.e. decision for the PCR was owing to close household/ family contact) - YES... your child/ren can be in school whilst you are awaiting the results. This is the latest PHE update.

*Sincere apologies, the text I sent out on Friday confuses this - my understanding prior to a PHE e'mail I received later that morning, was to stay off whilst awaiting the result. That is now not accurate **if there are no symptoms** – some of you I understand, have already been advised this way.*

My child has had a positive Lateral Flow result, what do we do next?

Please book your child in for a PCR test and isolate until you get their results back – our experience so far, is that this is only taking approx. 24 hr.

I think my child may be a close contact of another child who is self-isolating – should we get a PCR or keep them off school?

As cases rise (not in any way wishing to be pessimistic), I am mindful that in discussion and/ or through social media, you may become aware of a child/ ren currently out of school for COVID reasons - Please be aware, **we are not in a position to be able to confirm or provide directly, this personal information.**

Responsibility for contact tracing has officially been transferred to the Government Test and Trace scheme. That said, whilst we do not want to panic people, I am mindful that some information may help in terms of decision making regarding your own family and/ or friends contact and activity out of school, e.g. arranging to see a potentially vulnerable grandparent at the weekend. More details to follow.

Health and well-being monitoring

As well as updated risk assessments, as a Local Authority School we also have an 'Outbreak Management Plan' - there is presently no requirement to also have a Policy. What both set out, is regular communications with our Education Effectiveness and Health Protection teams to enable them, alongside us, to

monitor and



maintain a class and school-wide picture with a view to putting additional measures in place (e.g. returning to all pupils facing forward, individual equipment, zoned playground, etc) should that be necessary.

Closure of a class and/ or more significant whole school decisions, if necessary, will then be based upon conversations with the Local Authority and DfE.

I hope the above helps clarify, to some degree, recent updates, the requirements in schools and subsequently, our current approach to managing COVID with you. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need to query this and/ or notify us of any changes of health within your family.

Thank you for your continued support,



Mr A. Clark
(Headteacher)

