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St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

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Dear Parent/ Carers,

As we move nearer Christmas, I thought it might be useful for you to have some questions answered that you might be having and also to give you some further context.

Having talked to the LA we have had over 7000 children isolating straight after the half term holiday across the East Riding. This has reduced to around 3000 up to this week. Schools continue to isolate their children due to positive cases and there are concerns about children being told to isolate during the Christmas period. I am aware that many of you communicate on various groups including What's App and some discussions are about what to do in the final week.

It is the belief of the Local Authority that the reduction in numbers has been due to children being in school, the lockdown, darker nights and children not mixing as they did over the holidays. Therefore, there are no plans to close the school in the final week unless the government make any decisions subsequently.

It is important that children do isolate if called to do so. I am still receiving reports from parents telling me they saw children who should be isolating in the supermarket or in the street. As you can imagine this causes resentment if others are trying their best to follow guidelines. We understand that this is not easy but please try and follow the guidelines as best you can.

Please remember, if someone in your family and has symptoms and is waiting for a test result, PLEASE do not send your children to school. 1 day off, that might not lead to anything, is better than 14 days off for everyone in the bubble.

As soon as someone in your family home starts with symptoms, you MUST collect your child from school. Please do not wait for 3.30pm even if the symptoms start at 9am.

As the infectious period is 2 days, it is important that we isolate a possible case as soon as possible. The scenarios below will help clarify this.

Scenario 1 - Tuesday morning in Kylie's House

8am - Kylie's Dad wakes up feeling rough (with possible Covid symptoms)

9am - Kylie comes into school fit and healthy

11am - Dad decides to book a test and is lucky to get a 2pm slot, so goes along to take his test.

3.30pm Mum picks Kylie up from school.

11pm - Dad receives notification that his test is positive.

The next morning Mum rings school to say Kylie will be isolating for 2 weeks due to Dad's positive test.

Thursday Morning 11am Kylie starts with symptoms and goes for a test - she receives a positive result.

Because Kylie attended school on Tuesday when Dad had symptoms, and goes on to develop symptoms and tests positive within the next 2 days the school has to close an entire bubble - 30 children plus staff are sent home and have to isolate for 14 days.



## Scenario 2 - Tuesday morning in Kylie's house

8am - Kylie's Dad wakes up feeling rough (with possible Covid symptoms)

9am - Mum decides to keep Kylie at home just in case Dad's symptoms are related to Covid

11am - Dad decides to book a test and is lucky to get a 2pm slot, so goes along to take his test.

11pm - Dad receives notification that his test is positive.

The next morning Mum rings school to say Kylie will be isolating for 2 weeks due to Dad's positive test.

Thursday Morning 11am Kylie starts with symptoms and goes for a test - she receives a positive result.

Because Kylie was kept at home on Tuesday morning when Dad started with symptoms and hadn't attended school since Monday, her symptoms and positive test result on Thursday mean it will not affect her school bubble. Unfortunately, Kylie's family will still have to isolate, but because Mum was sensible and kept Kylie at home on Tuesday, the rest of Kylie's classmates and their families are not affected.

Reporting absence to the office

If your child is absent for any reason please contact the school office to give the reasons why. This can be done by phoning or contacting [office@kirkella.eriding.net](mailto:office@kirkella.eriding.net). Informing the teacher on ClassDojo will not always guarantee the message gets to the office and you may still be called. Teachers are organising lessons in the morning, receiving children and teaching. Attendance is the school offices role.

Staff gifts

I have had a number of parents ask me about staff Christmas gifts. This is very kind but not expected. This is possible but can you ensure they are in school by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December so the staff can quarantine them for 72 hours before they can take them home.

Keep Safe,

Mr Church