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St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

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Dear Parent/carers

I am sorry for the seriousness of this letter but it is important for the good of the whole school community.

I sent a letter recently regarding the safety measures the school is undertaking to ensure your children can remain safe. This included distancing, mask-wearing, hand hygiene, keeping down crowds, testing in schools, ventilation, quarantine and isolation, vaccines, separate classes on the playground over lunchtime and at playtime, minimising the number of visitors from outside entering the school and enhanced cleaning arrangements.

Since we have come back, we have become increasingly concerned with a number of children being brought into school then subsequently finding out that parents/carers/household/support bubble have had symptoms or going for tests. This puts classes in jeopardy, and we have reiterated on many occasions that if anyone has symptoms or going for a test, to not send children into school. If these situations occur, can parents/carers think of others and the needs of the whole school. If you are not sure, do not bring your child in and please call us on the phone for further clarity. As soon as a child has entered the class they are classed as making some form of contact.

We want the children to return to year group bubbles after Easter, but this cannot be the case if classes are still required to isolate. This will affect the extra support we want to provide to catch up the children, as we can make greater use of staff if we can take children from two/three classes within a year group. We also want to start some after school clubs for specific year groups but again this will not be able to occur for such small numbers if we stay in class bubbles.

As the previous letter states:

Please do not send your child into school, if they or anyone else in your household has symptoms or tests positive for COVID. Otherwise, you will be compromising the safety of the rest of the class bubble. This also includes if you are waiting for the results of a test.

The local authority risk assessment states:

‘It remains the case that any individual who meets any of the following criteria must stay at home and self-isolate in line with national requirements:

They, someone they live with, or member of their support bubble have symptoms, of COVID-19

They or someone they live with receives a positive LFD Test result, or is awaiting results from a PCR Test.

They, someone they live with, or a member of their childcare or support bubble has tested positive through a PCR test

They have been instructed by NHS Track and Trace or the Local Public Health Team, to self-isolate.

They are awaiting COVID-19 test results

On return from abroad, where applicable, they must not attend the school. ‘

Schools are permitted to refuse access to any individual who is displaying symptoms but who cannot confirm a negative test.

If you do have to keep your child off for any reason or if your child tests positive, please let the school know as soon as possible. This is by phoning within school hours or by using the number set up for parents to contact us out of normal school hours (evenings, weekends, and holidays). This number is only to be used to report positive results for a pupil. This is to ensure we follow procedures at the earliest possible time to ensure everyone's safety. Please save the number in your phone, 07399355450. Suspected cases and positive results for members of the household can still be notified by email to office@kirkella.eriding.net.

If we do receive a case, please be aware that the notification for a class isolating can come at any time and I know this is not always convenient. We do let you know as soon as we find out we have a positive case.

Please have contingencies in place in case it happens. We will endeavour to follow this up with a letter as soon as possible stating the dates for isolation. This letter could get to you anytime that day as we are waiting for the local authority to agree the dates and they may be busy. We cannot release a letter until these dates have been agreed.

If your child has to isolate for any reason and they develop symptoms or receive a positive test result, please notify the school on the email address above, as we must report on all cases.

It is important that we all follow the rules if we are required to isolate as this protects everyone.

Keep Safe,

Mr Church

