

09/11/2020

### **Coronavirus update**

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope you are all well and managing to keep safe. Sadly after a very promising first half-term, this half term has begun with an increase of Covid incidents.

On Friday a member of the PE Faculty, Ms Gallagher tested positive for the Coronavirus, after taking a test on Wednesday. The advice from Public Health is to focus on the last two days the member of staff was in school, before symptoms and test taken, this was Monday and Tuesday, so we informed families of any classes who were taught by the member of staff, to self-isolate for 14 days. While every effort is made to ensure that staff and students keep to the two meter guideline, we cannot guarantee that this may not have been overstepped at some point. Therefore, the self-isolation of Ms Gallagher's classes is a precaution, but I believe a necessary one.

On Sunday I was informed that another member of staff from the same faculty, Mr Allen, had also tested positive. He had been sent home early on Friday, with a test. Speaking again to Public Health, we were to focus on lessons taught on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Therefore, as a precaution, yesterday afternoon, a Parentmail was sent to the parents of the classes he had taught, advising them their child is required to self-isolate for 14 days. As highlighted before, Public Health ask who the member of staff may have come into contact with, therefore, again, whilst I know all staff will have been sensible and followed the guidance, I cannot guarantee that at no point Mr Allen was closer than two meters with his classes/students, for a certain period of time, so the precaution I believe is the correct one.

We also have some other staff members, who through the "track and trace" app were picked up for being in close proximity for a period of time with the members of staff that have tested positive, they now will self-isolate. None of these staff members currently have any symptoms, it is simply a precaution following the guidance. We also have one member of staff shielding due to personal health concerns and a number of other staff taking precautionary tests and hopefully they will be come back negative.

The guidance states that if we are to advise classes to self-isolate, it is a precautionary measure and does not affect any family members, unless symptoms start to show. Therefore, siblings are still able to attend school, and families do not need to isolate.

Up until now I have felt fortunate that things have gone so smoothly. Unfortunately with the recent incidents happening at the weekend, communication was only basic. Hopefully this makes matters clearer. If not, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes  
Tim Body  
Headteacher