

Willow Primary School
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Headteacher: D Sumner

1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank parents for your support when we are sending children home with illnesses and asking for them to have a PCR test. We appreciate that this may be an inconvenience at times, however this approach has helped us to find many positive cases of covid that would otherwise gone undetected.

Currently, we have lots of children who have tested positive for covid and we have put measures in place to try to stop larger outbreaks. Community infection rates are high and nationally, cases have risen by nearly 20%.

If we ask you to, please book a test on the government website as soon as possible even if your child has a headache, cough, sore throat, runny nose or fatigue as well as the other specific covid symptoms. If you are unable to book as your child does not have a specific symptom as listed please put that they have been a close contact with a positive case. We will also ask you to book a test if your child has been a close contact in school but these children can still attend school unless they have symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Most of the children who have tested positive in our school have NOT had the three main symptoms so it's vital we check everyone. Results are coming through very quickly and if their result is negative your child should be back in school the next day. Your child's attendance will not be affected by doing this unless they are found to be positive.

We have been advised by Public Health England that this is the right action to be taken with the number of rising cases in the local area. They would also like to remind parents that lateral flow tests done at home are not to be used on primary school children as they are not accurate for that age group.

I'd also like to remind you that we expect parents to speak with our office team with kindness and respect if they call to inform you that your child should take a PCR test; they have recently been questioned by some parents about this approach, however, we are simply carrying out the instruction from Doncaster' Public Health team. We will not tolerate aggression towards our team.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have followed the guidance and supported us with this; we just want to keep our community as safe as possible.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Sumner and the Willow Team.

