

22nd September 2021

Covid Cases – Important update for parents

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to inform you that we have had a significant increase in the number of positive Covid cases in school this week. Anyone who has had a positive covid test, is not in school at the moment. I am working closely with Doncaster Public Health and have met with them for an Outbreak Management Meeting today.

At the moment, the rise in cases is limited to some areas of school, however many of these children have friends and siblings in other classes so I feel it's important to update all parents about this.

In response to the rise in cases, we have changed some of the measures we have had in place this term to return to greater social distancing across school. We have taken this decision to try to stop us reaching outbreak levels of covid.

- Staff will adhere to 2m social distancing where possible, especially in confined spaces.
- We have put limits on the amount of people allowed in each room and staff have been asked to avoid using the staffroom.
- All staff who work in the classes and areas of the school with multiple cases of covid have been advised to take daily lateral flow tests.
- All other staff to continue to take twice weekly lateral flow tests.
- We will continue to have high levels of cleaning including a midday clean of all 'high-contact areas of the school including toilets and door handles
- Continue to focus children's attention on having good hand hygiene through handwashing and use of sanitiser
- Continue to focus on good nasal hygiene through the 'Catch It – Kill It – Bin It' approach.
- We will limit cross class contact where possible although year groups can mix freely outside.
- Teachers will continue to make sure the classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows.
- I have advised staff that face coverings can be used. Staff working in the classes where there have been multiple cases, are advised to wear face coverings all the time.
- Homework club arrangements have been changed so that each key stage and year group will sit separately.
- The classes with multiple positive cases, will go back to eating their lunch in their classroom and have a designated social space for playtimes.
- We will continue to hold online assemblies and meetings so that we do not have any large gatherings.

Our school's risk assessment and outbreak management plan is available on the website <https://www.willowprimaryschool.co.uk/school-covid-arrangements-information-for-parents/>

It's important that parents and families take the following action so that we do not reach a school outbreak level:

- Children displaying any symptoms **MUST** be kept off school and a PCR test should be arranged. Only with a negative result can the child return to school. This has been the advice of Dr Rupert Suckling (Director of Public Health for Doncaster) since the summer and it continues to be the case. If your child has symptoms and you do not want your child to have a PCR test, they must isolate for 10 days and will not be allowed back into school until after this period of time. We have had recent cases where children were sent to school with mild symptoms and have then tested positive for Covid having passed it on to someone else.
- If your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive with Covid then they child should get a PCR test but do not have to isolate unless they have symptoms. If there are multiple cases in your child's class, we will contact you to alert you to this and urge you to arrange a PCR test.
- We will send home any children who display symptoms of the Delta Variant in line with Public Health advice.
- Parents and carers who are dropping off or collecting children, please maintain social distance when on the site, particularly in areas where congestion can occur, such as the gate and exit from the Key Stage Two playground.

At Willow, we have always maintained precautionary measures beyond the basic government guidance and the staff team are working very hard to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as we can. By working together as a community, we can keep schools open and minimise the disruption to education.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Sumner
Headteacher