



Holywell Primary School

Tolpits Lane, Watford, Herts, WD18 6LL

Tel: 01923 225188 email: admin@holywell.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA. Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH

we are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

1st December 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I wrote to parents on the 24th November 2021 to inform them that we are implementing our outbreak plan. Even though at the time we did not reach the criteria for an outbreak, I felt the precaution will slow the spread of the virus in school.

Since the letter and new measure our cases have continue to climb amongst staff and pupils, although at a slow pace. This is the case in many local Watford school, who are experiencing high levels of pupil and staff absence. I am consulting with the local authority's COVID Response Team regularly, to update them on the situation and to check our measures. Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils.

Unfortunately, an outbreak has now been declared in the school due to the number of positive cases, which are mainly in Year 2 and Year 5. An outbreak means 5 or more connected cases. The measures introduced will now stay in place until the end of the autumn term.

In addition to the measures already introduced, we are closely monitoring clubs. We will continue to risk assess each individual planned event, and inform parents in advance, if these activities go ahead as planned.

As part of our risk assessment, we will also ensure the classrooms are well ventilated. We use CO2 monitors, issued to us by the DFE, to monitor these levels daily. We continue to ensure that temperatures in classrooms are above the recommended temperatures, as established by the H&S Executive, and that pupils are not cold in their classrooms. If you are worried about your child staying warm, then an extra layer of clothing is advised.

I must insist that parents do all they can to ensure that their child does not have COVID when they are unwell. Many parents have reported to us that the symptoms displayed initially by their children are one of a cold or sore throat.

Lateral flow test are not advised for primary school aged children, parents can book a PCR test online to get absolute clarity, if their child has COVID or not. The walk in centre next to the school is very convenient for this. Not many children get ill with COVID and can spreads the virus unknowingly because they are asymptomatic.



General COVID information

Symptoms

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are not sure whether you or your child's symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If you are concerned about your child's health or the health of anyone else in your household please seek advice from your GP, use NHS 111 online <https://111.nhs.uk/> or call NHS 111.

There are things you can do to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get to your destination
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your co-operation, we wish those affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) a speedy recovery.

Yours faithfully



Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher

Appendix A

How to book a test online when you have been identified as a close contact but do not have symptoms yourself

- 1) Go to [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)
- 2) Scroll down and select start now
- 3) Is the person who needs a test an essential worker? **Select NO**
- 4) Test available scroll to bottom **Select continue**
- 5) Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? **Select NO, none of these symptoms**
- 6) Has the person been asked to get a follow-up test? **Select NO**
- 7) Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? **Select none of the above.**
- 8) Why are you asking for a test? **Select I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional.** Then **Select My local council or health protection team has asked me to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms. Select continue**
- 9) Complete your details and select how you wish to receive your test.