

Dear parents and carers

An Update from School 24.11.20

I am writing today to give all parents, carers and the wider community an update on our current situation. You will all be aware that in the last week we have asked a number of pupils and adults from our school to self-isolate. Our desire is to always be completely transparent in the information we share; so please find below some details that will hopefully help you understand the decisions we have taken in the last week.

Positive Cases and the Closure of Some Bubbles

Since Wednesday 18th November we have been notified of 5 positive cases of COVID-19 in the school that have led to the need for other members of the school community to self-isolate. These cases include 4 members of staff and 1 pupil. In consultation with the local public health team and by running detailed tracing in our school; this has led to all Y5 classes being asked to self-isolate, as well as Ash Class and Mole Class. Our after-school club has also been affected. The ongoing emergence of cases without any known social connections is suggestive of multiple separate introductions into the school from the community.

As any new cases are reported to us, we have a system in place for tracing close contacts and identifying those who need to self-isolate. In each case, we have worked quickly and methodically to isolate anyone who may be considered a 'close contact.' For all cases, close contacts are identified as staff or pupils that have been in close proximity to the affected person in the 48 hours prior to their symptoms developing for either over a minute at less than 1 metre, or more than 15 minutes at less than 2 metres.

Other Absences

Miss Gray of Woodpecker Class is currently off work because she has been contacted by the NHS App and asked to isolate. Colleagues from within the school will cover this absence – she will return to work on Thursday 3rd December.

Breaking Transmission

We need your help to break the chain of transmission. As well as asking you to continue to observe Hands – Face – Space (wash your hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitiser; wear a face covering when you are required to do so; keep two metres apart from anyone you don't live with); we are also asking parents and carers to take the following actions with their families:

- If your child displays any symptoms, including the coronavirus symptoms, but also a headache, sore throat, feeling run down, upset stomach, please keep them at home, request a test and notify the school. If your child's test is positive, they will be advised to self-isolate for 10 days and the household for 14 days.

Pupils Self-isolating and Remote Learning

All pupils working at home will have access to daily work on their Google Classroom. Where the whole class are self-isolating (including the teacher); live lessons will take place daily unless the teacher of the class is isolating and unwell. These will start as soon as possible after day one of isolation. School staff will be available to offer support and technical advice if required. Any families struggling at home with a lack of computers, internet connectivity or with any of the work set should contact us for support. There are video guides available on our website under **letters home – google class guide**.

Families that are having to isolate should also get in touch if there is anything else we can help with. This could be help with food parcels, access to essentials or access to medicines. If your child normally has free school meals we can prepare for them a food hamper for collection or delivery.

After-school Club

There will be no after-school club for the next two weeks. This is because we are unable to staff this provision in the short term. The provision will re-open again on Monday 7th December.

Classes Returning

We look forward to seeing the following classes on the dates below:

Maple Class	Monday 30 th November
Ash Class	Tuesday 1 st December
Mole Class	Thursday 3 rd December
After School Club	Friday 4 th December
Rowan Class	Monday 7 th December
Willow Class	Monday 7 th December
Sycamore Class	Monday 7 th December

Finally

There will always be someone available to contact at school. We will answer your calls and respond to all emails to info@riverbankprimary.org. Please know that you can contact us for **anything at all**. We will do everything in our power to support our families.

Best wishes

David Sansom