



St Bartholomew's CE Multi Academy Trust
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Woodfield Primary School

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CEO: Katy Kent



28th September, 2021

Dear Parents

I am sure you are aware that there have now been several confirmed cases of Covid 19, both in staff and pupils. Having consulted with the DfE COVID helpline daily, their current advice is to continue to follow the government guidance that we implemented when the children returned at the start of the academic year: regular handwashing, well-ventilated spaces and regular staff testing. All staff carry out two lateral flow tests a week and although it is not government guidance for primary aged children to do this, I am asking you to consider doing the same with your children at this time.

The guidance is clear for primary pupils, and I have texted a link to a letter from Public Health that gives much more details. A summary of the latest guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#SymptomsPositiveTest>

If your child has a continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell, we ask that you book a PCR test immediately and keep your child at home until they receive a negative result. Likewise, if your child has a positive result on a lateral flow test, please obtain a PCR test straight away. These are the only circumstances under which your child should self-isolate. Even if a member of your household has a positive COVID result, any children with negative PCR results should still come to school. The best place for your children to be is at school, but we understand completely that you, as parents, may have vulnerable relatives in the household and you must do what you think is right. We also understand that, if one sibling tests positive, it makes perfect sense to get the other sibling tested! Please talk to us if you are unsure.

It can be a very difficult situation because we are being asked to make a medical judgement about whether children have 'symptoms' and this is often unclear. Please be assured that we only call you if we are sure that they are displaying symptoms, and we always leave it a good length of time before calling you. I thank you again for your patience and understanding in this, and I must say, again, that the children continue to be wonderful in how they cope with the upheaval.

If it were deemed that the school did have a 'COVID outbreak', we would be asked by the DfE to take further actions to protect the school community. I would share this advice with you immediately, but in the meantime, we have been told to continue taking the precautions that we are already taking.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this or any other matter, please contact me or the school office.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Salisbury'.

Philip Salisbury
Headteacher