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Saturday 3rd April

Dear Parents / Carers,

Confirmed cases of COVID-19

Over the last week, we have had a number of confirmed individual cases of COVID-19 across school. Two of these have been staff cases which were initially detected by routine lateral flow device (LFD) twice weekly testing. The others have been pupil cases in different classes.

I am aware that these cases have prompted a number of families to use lateral flow device (LFD) tests, which are intended for adult use, to screen their children.

Lateral Flow Device tests are not advised for use on primary aged children. While it may be that some LFD tests have identified asymptomatic cases (which has been helpful) subsequently confirmed by a PCR test, it is important that families do not take a negative LFD test result as indication that they do not need to self-isolate.

At present, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y6 are directed to self-isolate due to single cases in each class. It is essential that all affected children see out the full period of self-isolation, regardless of any negative LFD or PCR tests.

As a school we will continue to inform you if there is a need for your child to self-isolate. Please continue to be vigilant about any symptoms of COVID-19 within your family and notify school as indicated in the latest newsletter if your child tests positive over the Easter holiday. It is essential that school is notified immediately so that we can manage track and trace. Posting results on social media and/ or messaging applications can create additional challenges for school to manage track and trace, so I must ask you to think carefully about the information you share, and when.

I appreciate that these cases may make you apprehensive. We are continuing to work closely with the local authority and with Public Health England. While it is very frustrating that this is encroaching on people's Easter holiday, it does provide us with a very timely circuit breaker-provided everyone who is directed to self-isolate does so.

As a reminder, the symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back, and/or
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, and/or
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If you / your child develops any of these symptoms you / they should stay at home and start to self-isolate and [arrange to have a COVID-19 test](#). The whole household, including anyone in your support bubble, should stay at home while awaiting a home test kit or a test site appointment and whilst waiting for test results.

If you / your child then tests **positive**, or is unable to take a test, you / they should not attend school for at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and everyone else in your household should self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If the test is **negative** you can all stop isolating.

If your child's symptoms begin or positive result occurs up to 2 days after they were last in school, you must inform school via text on 07891 279271 and include

- your child's name
- when they became symptomatic
- when they tested positive

If it is more than 2 days after they were last in school, you should email head@westgateprimary.co.uk with the same information.

If anyone else in your household develops symptoms and the test result is positive, they should then stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from when **their** symptoms started, regardless of where they were in the previous 10 day period.

If you are concerned about your child's health, please refer to the NHS 111 website or telephone NHS 111 or your GP.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>

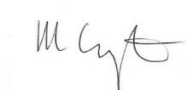
Please see the link to the PHE 'Stay at Home' Guidance:

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

The safety and welfare of all our staff and children remains our top priority. We continue to undertake thorough cleaning around the whole school and a deep clean will be carried out in the appropriate areas of school following all positive cases.

If you would like to speak to someone, or have any further questions, please email head@westgateprimary.co.uk and I will endeavour to respond next week.

Yours sincerely



Helen Carpenter
Head teacher

Rob Wilks
Chair of Governors