

Harewood C of E Primary School

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“Educating for Life In All Its Fullness”

28th November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I want to let families know that we have now had additional confirmed cases of COVID in members of staff this week, on top of those mentioned in the Newsletter. This now affects Class 1, Class 3, myself and catering staff. In the coming week school will endeavour to run as near as possible to normal, but there will need to be changes to staffing, and some activities will need to be postponed to minimize risks and protect the community.

The responsibility to inform close contacts is with NHS Test and Trace, but in the meantime, please be alert to the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of change to your sense of taste or smell

The adults now testing positive have not exhibited these symptoms, but have appeared to have been suffering from a normal, winter cold. They were identified through the regular staff testing program and have all tested negative previously during the week. Although these staff have been in contact with each other this week they have not had prolonged close contact. With primary age pupils not routinely being tested it is possible, that a number of children in school with cold like symptoms, may also be positive or there are asymptomatic cases in school adding to the spread of the virus.

If your child develops, or has one of these symptoms, please keep them at home and book a PCR test (online at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by phoning 119 between 7am and 11pm) and stay at home until you receive a result.

Under current guidance, close contacts who are under 18s and adults who are fully vaccinated do not have to self-isolate. This means that children in the classes are still allowed to come to school as normal but please be vigilant for any symptoms.

If possible, we want to avoid going back to the bubble system introduced last year but following advice we will be adapting routines. This week we will be avoiding meeting together as a whole school, we will be tightening up on hand hygiene and keeping groups apart where possible without disrupting learning.

In the first instance the following events this week have been postponed:

- Monday's Girls Football at Deighton Gates.
- Thursday's Class 1 trip to Harewood House.
- Friday's PTA Film night. (After School Club will be back on as usual)

For the moment, we are still planning to take Class 2 to Abbey House on Thursday, but a decision will be made on this in the coming days. Details of the rescheduled dates will be communicated when we have them.

There will also be **no Before School Club provision Monday 29th November**. The other days will be unaffected and run as normal.

I am really sorry about these changes, but the long-term welfare of our children and staff must take precedent. I will keep families informed of any additional changes needed in the usual ways.

Please be vigilant, and if in doubt, book a test.

A. Ratcliffe
Headteacher