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Raysfield Primary School: office@raysfield.org.uk 01454 866795

COVID UPDATE

Monday 28th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, thank you so much for the positive messages of support the staff and I have received. We have very much appreciated these during the management of this difficult time. Thank you.

COMMUNICATION

As this is an evolving situation, which changes all the time we cannot maintain constant communication with parents unless we are asking you to take action i.e. self-isolate. Therefore I will write to you, if circumstances change, at the end of the day. This update will include the sharing of any advice sought from Public Health and the number of reported cases the school is managing. I will also answer any of your frequently asked questions.

Please can I ask you are mindful of the staff, who are working incredibly hard and are taking on additional tasks during their own time to support the operational management of the school. Their well-being, and the well-being of our children, is important to all of us so can I remind parents that Dojo is not a place to challenge; it is a sharing platform for all the great work the school is doing. We do have a clear complaints process for this or you can email office@raysfield.org.uk for my attention and we will use our best endeavours to reply as swiftly as possible.

All COVID communications will be emailed to you by the close of business at 5pm, if the circumstances have changed and an update is required. Please ensure we have the correct email address for you. All COVID communications are also published on our school website. <https://www.raysfield.org.uk/coronavirus/>

COVID CASE UPDATE

Year R: no change

Year 3: 2 confirmed on PCR, 1 awaiting PCR test. These are all within Finch class.

Year 4: no change

Year 5: 2 confirmed cases, 1 awaiting PCR test. These are all within Heron class.

PUBLIC HEALTH

This morning I spoke at length with Public Health England regarding the confirmed cases at Raysfield. They confirmed what we already know:

www.raysfield.org.uk

- Cases are escalating in South Gloucestershire
- Possible transmission within our school has been stopped through self-isolation
- Siblings can come to school. Please try to keep direct contacts and siblings separate where possible. It is not deemed necessary to keep siblings at home, unless a confirmed positive case is within your household.
- They presume all confirmed cases are the new Delta variant.
- The school is taking all the correct action to reduce any further cases.

We, as a school, can only control one element of transmission – our school site - and Public Health confirmed we are taking, and have taken all the correct steps to reduce the risk and stop the transmission. This is a community issue where we all need to work together in order to address it. You are doing so well at supporting your children through remote learning, and we hugely appreciate the challenge. We have been very lucky at Raysfield, for the majority of your children this is their first bubble closure.

Public Health also recommended, every child considered a direct contact (that's all children we have asked to self-isolate) take a PCR test. In taking this test now (after about 5 days) it will confirm whether your child has contracted COVID. You can book a PCR test by following this link <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>

THIS DOES NOT REDUCE THE CURRENT ISOLATION PERIOD but it will ensure a positive case does not return to school on 5th July.

FAQ

- **Why are people testing primary school children?**

The LFT are for children over 16 and are for asymptomatic people. This is not widely known by everyone so please do not think you have made a mistake, if you have tested your child. Public Health England recommend adults get and use the LFT tests and use them twice weekly and not in a response to symptoms. They are for asymptomatic people to use at regular intervals. The reason for this is the incubation period. If you test twice weekly and then suddenly a test is positive, the track and trace is much more effective in closing down the transmission time and it means you can isolate your household straight away, reducing further transmission in school. I do recommend parents use them to support us in reducing the spread of COVID.

PCR tests are used to respond to symptoms or you can request a PCR test in response to a Public Health Professional for example where your child is a direct contact (as above).

- **Why did the isolation period change for Reception children to 3rd July?**

Public Health - Last exposure to a confirmed case Wednesday 23rd July – contacts to isolate up to and including 3rd July.

The children in Reception were exposed to a positive case on this day before they were sent home to isolate. At the time they were sent home to isolate, we only knew about the first case and used these timescales in our first communication to you. The letter sent on Friday is the correct self-isolation time.

- **Why are the Year 4 children self-isolating?**

The children in Year 4 are self-isolating because we could not provide a 100% guarantee to Public Health that they did not play with the same football, bars, equipment or the confirmed case. At the time of reporting, our cases were rising and as a **safety first approach**, Public Health England advised they isolate too. This does not include the staff in the Year 4 bubble because they are considered contacts of contacts (they did not play with equipment or gym bars).

There will be two letters attached to this email, this one and one from our Local Authority with the wider South Gloucestershire picture and further information regarding the Lateral Flow devices for regular testing of people 16 and over.

Thank you for your continued support

Very best wishes, Mrs Claire Hill and Team Raysfield