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Headteacher Kam Grewal-Joy Deputy Headteachers Steve Bacon Tamsin Woodward



KGR/SGI 2nd October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: COVID-19

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

I am writing to inform you that we have seen a sharp increase in COVID-19 infection rates across the school community in the last two weeks. Staff absence has been higher than we would expect it to be at this time of the year which in some areas has affected teaching and learning routines and delayed response times.

We Make A Difference

Given the low risk to children and young people, high levels of vaccination among the UK population and a dominant variant that continues to be milder than in the past, there is no longer specific COVID-19 guidance for schools.

We are advising staff and students if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, they follow UKHSA's <u>guidance</u>. This advises individuals aged over 18 years with a positive COVID-19 test result to stay at home for 5 days after the day they took the test. For those under 18 years, the advice is to stay at home for 3 days after the day they took the test. We appreciate that the vast majority of people are no longer testing and it is important to stress that there is no requirement to do so, especially as this is an additional cost to families. **Essentially, it is important that your child continues to attend as normal if they remain well.** However, if your child has tested positive for COVID-19, to reduce the spread of infection across the school community we ask that families follow the above guidance.

Currently, we are not introducing any further control measures but as previously, we will continue to promote hand hygiene and keep classrooms well ventilated to reduce the spread of infection. Furthermore, we will continue to take advice from the UK Health Security Agency to ensure that we are taking the appropriate actions to minimise disruption in the future and to keep our school community safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Grewal-Joy, Headteacher

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