St. Margaret's
C.E. Primary School, Heywood

Date: 9/12/2021

Warn and Inform Letter

Dear **Y1** Parent/ Carer,

We have been advised by Rochdale Council's Public Health Team that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the **Year 1 Class**.

In line with the national guidance, children aged under 18 years are no longer required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Your child and other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms.

However, in line with the additional measures that have been introduced to educational settings locally, we are asking contacts to:

- **Take daily lateral flow tests (LFD test) before coming into school for 10 days** *(unless exempt – see exemptions below)*

- **Take a PCR test between day 3 and 5 after being identified as a contact.** Tests can be booked online using the below link or by calling 119. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested or by calling 119.

Information on how to access LFD and PCR tests locally can be found on the Rochdale Borough Council website:
http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/Pages/test-and-trace.aspx

Exemptions to Daily Contact Testing:
 Children 5 and under
 Children in Key Stage 1
 SEND schools
 Any child, aged between 5 – 16, who has tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days
 12 to 18 year olds who have had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago**

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

Please note people should not need to be re-tested via an LFD test or PCR test within 90 days of a previous confirmed positive test, unless new symptoms develop, in which case they should book a PCR.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must isolate and you should arrange a test for your child via https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested or by calling 119.

If the test result is positive, your child will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the day that their symptoms started. Please inform us if your child has a positive test result.

If your child's test result is negative, they can continue with their normal activities if they are well enough to do so.

Please visit the link to Public Health England's guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infections:

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

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- new continuous cough and/or;
- high temperature and/or;
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

However, people frequently present with a wider range of symptoms. A full list of additional symptoms can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-background-information/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-epidemiology-virology-and-clinical-features#clinical-features

If you or your child feel newly unwell with Covid-19 symptoms, then please access a PCR test. For many people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available;

- wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- allow ventilation in the house through opening windows;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.

Test and Trace Support Payments

If a person is asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and is on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, they may be entitled to a payment of £500 from their local authority under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This now applies to parents/ carers who cannot work from home and will lose income by self-isolating or staying at home to care for the child.

Further details are available via: https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment

Information on local support available, including financial support can be found at: http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/Pages/covid-19-help.aspx

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maxine Beresford
(Head teacher)