

**WEOBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
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**Head of School
Mr S Warrell BA (Hons), PGCE**

16th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are starting to see an increase in COVID cases in the school. Whilst this is still a very small number, I do feel there is value to bringing this to your attention.

Since the start of the new school year, the responsibility for reporting COVID cases has been taken away from schools and is the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. When a child has tested positive for COVID, the parent will be contacted by them and asked about their child's close contacts – if Test and Trace need further information, they will contact the school directly.

For this reason, when we have instances of COVID in the school, we will not contact parents about this directly, this is the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. Should we identify a wider outbreak of COVID in the school, we will contact Public Health England and follow their advice as to what action we need to take.

Government guidance states that children that are close contacts of someone with COVID are exempt from self-isolation. If you are contacted by Test and Trace because your child is a close contact, you are advised to get them to take a **PCR test**. This can be [ordered online](#) or by phone by calling 119.

As cases appear to be on the increase, I would like to stress the importance of following the government guidance with regard to COVID symptoms. **If your child has any of the three symptoms (see below), they should self-isolate and take a PCR test. They should continue their isolation until their PCR result is received. If the result is positive, they should continue to isolate as per government guidance (for 10 full days from the day their symptoms started). If the PCR test result is negative but your child still has symptoms, they may have another viral illness such as a cold, flu or a stomach bug. Your child should stay at home until they feel well and for at least 2 more days if they have had diarrhoea or vomiting.**

The symptoms are as follows:

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

I must stress that if your child has any of these symptoms they should take a PCR test not a LFD test.

I am aware that some parents are concerned that their child could be a close contact of a COVID case and not know about this. It is important to understand that many children with COVID are asymptomatic and there is always a possibility that there are children in school with COVID, but showing no symptoms. As a school, we do everything that we can to reduce the risk of COVID, however, we cannot guarantee that your child does not come into contact with COVID whilst in school. Asymptomatic tests (LFD) are now widely available, primary age children are not required to regularly take an LFD test. If you are concerned that they may be carrying COVID, but not showing any symptoms, I would recommend that you test your child using these tests.

It is extremely important that you keep the school informed of the outcome of either LFD or PCR tests so that we can gauge the level of COVID in the school and seek advice from Public Health England if necessary.

Kind regards,

Stephen Warrell