



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear parents and carers

Over the last 5 days we have seen a significant increase in the number of Covid-19 cases among our school community. Whilst we are nowhere near the numbers we had 10-12 months ago, it is a stark reminder that we need to be vigilant of symptoms and work together to keep our whole school community safe. We need to remember that whilst your child or household may be well or able to cope with the effects of Covid-19, there are other children or staff in the school who have underlying health needs or members of their household that do, and we all have a responsibility to keep these members of our community safe.

We therefore insist that if your child has any of the three main symptoms (cough, high temperature, loss of taste/smell) they isolate, do not come into school and are taken for a PCR test (or isolate for 10 days). That applies even if you think the symptoms are due to a cold or other illness.

The rules have changed so any close contact to a positive case, including siblings, no longer has to isolate (if they are under 18 years old or have been fully vaccinated) but must go for a PCR test. They do not have to isolate whilst they wait for their result. This change means we no longer have to close whole classes for one case. If we see an outbreak in one class, however, we have to inform Public Health England and, if we have further concerns about rising numbers in that class, we may close that class for a period of time to reduce further spreading. This has been the case in Doves (Year 2) this weekend, so this morning we took the difficult decision to close the class for this week and move their learning to remote learning.

We simply want to try and keep our entire community safe and are following guidance to this effect. We continue to monitor cases and will respond accordingly if we see a rise in cases in a class or year group. We understand that some of these actions cause disruption and we do not take these decisions lightly; closing a class is our absolute last resort after other measures (e.g. reintroducing bubbles) have not worked. Hopefully the upcoming half term break will come at the perfect time to be a fire break in this small wave of cases that our community is experiencing.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal