



St. Michael's Church of England Primary School

Carlisle Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria CA5 7LN • Tel: 01228 711544 • Acting Headteacher: Mrs L Smith

Our school values: Respect • Kindness • Challenge • Forgiveness • Perseverance

20 September 2021

Dear Parent

I am writing to inform you that we now have multiple individuals in at least one class within our school who have tested positive for Covid 19 and, as a consequence of this, our local Public Health team has confirmed that we now need to consider introducing a wider range of measures to help reduce the risk of further transmission.

Therefore, I am writing to share the following information and explain our approach:

- If your child is in a class where we are seeing multiple cases, we may ask you to get a PCR test if they develop symptoms of illness other than the main 3 symptoms of COVID-19, including vomiting / diarrhoea / loss of appetite, headache (worse than normal), aching muscles and joints, sore throat, cold-like symptoms. We will let you know directly if we think your child may need a PCR test for wider symptoms.
- We will be encouraging all staff identified as close contacts of positive cases to get a PCR test, even if they don't have symptoms.
- Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas of the schools. Our risk assessments may also identify the need for some staff to wear face coverings in classrooms.
- We are asking parents and carers to wear a face covering again whilst dropping off and picking up your child (especially if you may not be able to maintain two metres distance from people who are not in your household).
- Some of our activities are being delivered differently. For example, Collective Worship is likely to be held in smaller groups, more learning may take place outside and activities that encourage increased aerosol transmission, such as singing, are less likely to happen indoors.
- We will keep classrooms well-ventilated wherever possible, so they may be cooler than normal. Please ensure your child brings warm items of uniform, such as their PE Hoodie, with them to school each day in case they are needed.
- Classes with multiple cases will operate as a 'bubble' within school. The pupils will not mix/play alongside others from a different year group at lunch time or play time and their learning will take place alongside their own peers only.

Please continue to:

- Be vigilant in looking out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child, however mild (a high temperature of 37.8°C or above, a new continuous cough and / or change to sense of taste and smell).

If your child develops any of these symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for them to get a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online [here](#). If you do not have access to the internet, please call 119. The quickest way to get a test is by booking to attend a Local Testing Site, however you can also arrange for a test kit to be sent to your home address.

- Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and use tissues for sneezes and runny noses.
- Encourage all adults and secondary school aged children in your household (who have not tested positive for COVID-19 via a PCR test within the past 90 days) to self-test twice-weekly with lateral flow devices. Secondary school children are provided with tests via their schools. Adults can pick up free test kits from many local pharmacies or order kits [online](#). Self-testing is not recommended for pre-school and primary school aged children.
- We also recommend anyone eligible in your household gets the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) if they have not done so already.

If you are concerned that your child or a member of their household may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection and are worried about them potentially being exposed to the virus, please contact me and we can discuss the protective measures we have in place in the setting, as well as jointly consider if any further action should be taken to protect your child and / or their wider household.

We know this can be an anxious time for parents / carers, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. We will inform you if we need to introduce any further measures. We will also let you know when we can relax the additional protective measures that have been put in place. The measures we are introducing will be in place until at least 10 days after any new cases are notified in the affected classes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorna Smith".

Mrs L Smith
Acting Headteacher