

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families are all well. We have had a really good first full week back and, whilst the management of COVID remains a significant part of our work, our commitment has always been, and will continue to be, to maintain as "normal" a school experience as possible for your children, balanced with keeping our whole school community as safe as possible whilst cases are still relatively high.

In line with our commitment to communicate frequently and openly with you about all COVID-related matters, I can confirm that we have had 8 positive COVID cases this week. Given the fact that we had 40 cases over the Christmas period, this sharp reduction in the number of cases is, of course, reassuring, but we will, however, maintain our current control measures at this stage and continue to review these on a weekly basis. Of this week's cases, four have been staff at Riverside SPC and four have been pupils at Riverside SPC and two classes have had more than one positive case, meaning they become what would be considered an "outbreak" class.

You will be aware from previous letters that in such cases, additional measures are put in place to try and minimise the risk of further transmission and for us, this means that:

- When one positive case is identified in a class, you will be contacted and asked to test your child using a lateral flow device (LFD) every day for seven days so that they can continue to come into school safely (assuming the test is negative). If they test positive on a LFD test, they will need to self-isolate.
- If there is a second positive case identified in the same class (which would therefore be deemed an "outbreak") the same rules apply as above, and we will introduce additional school-based control measures as appropriate. These will be risk-assessed on a case-by-case, class-by-class basis and we will let you know what additional measures are being taken in your child's class.
- If there is a positive case in your household, then the guidance is as above, namely your child does not need to self-isolate but again, we will ask you to take a LFD test every day for 7 days.
- If you are unable to source lateral flow devices, we are happy to provide them for this purpose.
- If, due to their specific needs, you wish to keep your child at home if they are a close contact of a positive case, please contact us and we will respect your decision to do so.
- If you have any questions around this guidance and your own particular circumstances, please feel free to get in touch.

I would like to thank you all for your understanding and support for all the measures we have in place.

You may be aware that the latest self-isolation advice for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 has also just changed and from next Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, it will be possible to end the self-isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. If this applies to your child in the coming weeks and you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

That just leaves me to end with the same message that I started with ... that despite the continuing COVID challenges, the sun is shining, and we know that there are brighter skies ahead.

Have a good weekend and with very best wishes,



Steve Solomons  
Headteacher