

17th December 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all safe and well.

On this penultimate day of term, I am writing to update you on the current Coronavirus situation at Riverside School. Prior to October half term, we had no confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and in the first two weeks after October half term, we had four confirmed cases. This was followed by three weeks with no confirmed cases and in the last two weeks, there have been another five confirmed cases. Of these nine cases in total, two were in our Early Years bubble at Riverside SPC and seven were in one of our Secondary bubbles at Riverside SPC. I am pleased to report that all those who tested positive during that time are doing well. Although we would have loved to remain open to all pupils this term, only two out of our eleven bubbles over three sites have had to stay at home to self-isolate, approximately 20% of our pupil population.

In my letter dated 10th December, I informed you that, in the past couple of weeks, we have been affected by a large number of staff having to self-isolate for different reasons and, having used all our contingency arrangements, have had to reduce the number of days that some pupils can attend school. This has happened in 5 out of our 33 classes, and the majority of these children missed less than a week of school in total. If your child was affected, we apologise for any inconvenience caused but please be assured that the action we took was the safest possible, given the individual circumstances. We would like to thank you for your understanding.

I mentioned in my last letter that, as a school, we are responsible for assisting in the contact tracing process, should there be any positive cases reported for six days after we break up. Naturally, we all hope that this doesn't happen, however, if your child does receive a positive test result between Friday 18th and Thursday 24th December, please see the following guidance:

Please email covid@riverside.bromley.sch.uk with the words "Positive test" in the subject line. Please let us know:

- Your child's full name and the last day they attended school.
- The time and date that your child started displaying COVID-19 symptoms, namely a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste.
- If your child was asymptomatic (ie did not display any symptoms) when they were tested.
- The time and date that your child took the test.
- The time and date that the test came back positive.

From this information, we should be able to identify your child's close contacts during the time

they were infectious. Close contact is defined as:

- Direct close contacts: face-to-face contact within 1 metre, for any length of time, with someone who has tested positive, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin);
- Proximity contacts – extended close contact (within 1-2 metres) for more than 15 minutes with someone who has tested positive;
- Travelling in a small vehicle with someone who has tested positive.

Once you have contacted us, please remain contactable for a few hours in case we need to find out more information. That way, we will be able to make the necessary communications in a timely way.

If, between Friday 18th – Thursday 24th December, we receive confirmation that a child or adult who would be considered to be a close contact of your child has tested positive, we will send you a text message and this will be followed up by an email, advising you of the relevant details. We will only contact families whose children would classify as needing to self-isolate as a result of being in close contact with the positive case.

If your child receives a positive a positive test result between Friday 25th December and Sunday 3rd January, please email covid@riverside.bromley.sch.uk with the details outlined on page one of this letter. During this period, you will receive an autoreply and we will pass on the details to the relevant people prior to the start of term. Please note that if your child tests positive from 26th December onwards that they should follow self-isolation guidelines, which are currently 10 days from symptoms appearing or the positive COVID test result if they were asymptomatic.

If you require clarification about anything in this letter, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we hope that the information provided is clear and helpful as we approach the end of term.

As always, our ARCHITECT values:

Aspiration Resilience Creativity Humility Integrity Trust Enthusiasm Courage Teamwork

will continue to shape everything we do. We hope you feel that they do.

With kindest regards,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher