

# Colmers Farm Primary School

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5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

A happy new year to you all.

You will undoubtedly have heard various pieces of information about what schools are doing in response to the current Coronavirus situation on the news, some of which has been a bit confusing. We thought it would be useful to outline what we are doing as a school following the current guidance from the Department of Education.

## Living with somebody who has Coronavirus or close contact with somebody who has Coronavirus

- Children below the age of 18 do not need to isolate and can continue to attend school, unless they have symptoms.
- Children not isolating (aged 5 or over) are advised to have a daily LFD test for 7 days, if they continue to have no symptoms. Children under the age of 5 can be tested at parents' discretion.
- If children have a positive LFD test, this should be confirmed by a PCR test, and they should isolate whilst awaiting this result.

## If a child tests positive for Coronavirus

- Children should isolate for 10 days, unless LFD tests taken on days 6 and 7 are negative. Please note that these must be taken 24 hours apart. If this is the case, children may return to school on day 7 if the test is done before school (as long as the child does not have a temperature).
- Even if a child tests positive on LFD tests on day 10, they should still return to school on day 11 due to the risk of them spreading the virus being minimal (as long as the child does not have a temperature).

## If a member of staff tests positive for Coronavirus

As a school, we will do everything that we can to keep children in school as we really want to provide the best education that we can for all our pupils and to provide them with as much consistency as possible. If a member of staff becomes ill with Coronavirus or any other illness, we will try to keep the class in school by:

- Getting a supply teacher (these currently though are in very short supply);
- Utilising teaching assistants to cover classes;
- Having larger classes (two classes being taught by one teacher in the hall with additional support);
- Streaming a lesson live from the teacher isolating (if they are well enough to work) or from the other year group's classroom;



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- 
- Splitting a class, so a children will go to other classrooms and complete their set work there.

If we are unable to do the above, due to large numbers of staff absence, we will provide either individual classes or year groups or the whole school with online learning via Google Classrooms (for Years 1-6) and Tapestry (for Reception) at home. Usernames and passwords for these were sent out before the holidays. If you have misplaced these, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher.

Any changes to our provision for your child will be communicated to you at the earliest possible opportunity, although this may not always be in advance of them taking place.

As a school, we will do all we can to support children both in school or at home. Please note that if your child is isolating, we will set work on Google Classrooms for them to access the next day. If you require the loan of a device to access Google Classroom, please contact the office.

Please remember that school attendance is mandatory for all children of compulsory school age, who are not ill or required to isolate in accordance with Government guidance, and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school. Please refer to the attendance code guidance sent out before Christmas. Please contact the school office to let us know the reason for any child's absence so that we can code this correctly on our system.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D J W', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mr Williams