



# WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our Ref: JMK/SXG

11 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Weekly Covid-19 Update

Since I last contacted you on Friday 4 December, there have been 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in school (5 staff and 2 students).

Having liaised with Public Health Lincolnshire and followed the national guidance, we have identified a small group of students who have been in direct prolonged contact with the confirmed cases. These students have received a separate letter requiring them to self-isolate for the required period.

Following national guidance, only identified close contacts and not a year-group bubble have been required to self-isolate. **The school therefore remains open to all year groups as normal.**

I can reassure you that your child has NOT been identified as being in this group and so should continue to attend school UNLESS they have already been asked to self-isolate, in which case you will already have been contacted by the school.

If there are any cases which require your child to self-isolate, you will be informed immediately after an investigation is completed. If you receive no contact from the school, this means that your child can attend school as normal.

As we approach the Christmas break, I realise this is an anxious time for our school community. I currently have a number of members of staff who are isolating from school through the NHS Test and Trace app, but we are working hard to ensure that your child continues to receive education in school until Thursday 17 December when we break up. Due to staff absence, if your child receives SEND support, this is likely to be reduced over the last 4 days of term. It is also possible that your child may not have their normal class teacher in all lessons.

The school intends to follow the Department for Education and Local Authority advice and stay open until the end of term. Please be reassured that the school has, and will continue to take all preventative measures possible to protect your child and the school community from COVID-19.

I will be sending out my Christmas newsletter next week, which will include information on how to report COVID-19 cases after we break up.

Please can I remind all parents that if your child or a member of your household develops symptoms/has gone for a test, your child MUST NOT come to school until the test result has been confirmed as negative. If your child's test result is negative, but they are already self-isolating having been in close contact with another affected person, they MUST NOT return to school until the isolation period elapses.



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If your child has a positive test for COVID-19, please can you report this to the school immediately by telephone during office hours (Monday to Thursday 8.30 – 5pm, Friday 8.30 to 4.30pm). Outside of office hours, including weekends, **please email [Covid@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:Covid@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk)** and NOT the William Farr email address. Normal school absence should be reported in the usual way by telephoning the school on 01673 866900 and selecting Option 1.

If your child does test positive to COVID-19, please can you ask them not to post this on social media so that the school has time to conduct a thorough investigation to decide if any students or staff need to self-isolate.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

### **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

### **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.



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### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

*Do*

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

### **Further Information**

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for your support and safe practices.

Yours faithfully

**Jonathan Knowler**  
**Headteacher**