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Headteacher: Mr. Aaron Wanford MA, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

Saturday, 19th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school

I am writing to inform you that there has been a **confirmed** case of COVID-19 with a staff member within Year Three Cedar bubble at Green Ridge.

I am sorry to have to inform you of this news at the weekend and at the start of the holiday, and I understand that this may be upsetting and frustrating news for you to receive. Our staff and children have done all that they have been asked; however, this virus is such that we have needed to take further action to stop the spread and we have a responsibility to inform you of positive cases so that you can take the action necessary to protect your families, particularly over the Christmas period. The individual has not been in school since they developed symptoms and has been self-isolating at home, as per government advice. They have since accessed a test and have tested positive.

The school contacted the dedicated helpline at the Department for Education this morning. The helpline's team conducted a rapid investigation to confirm who the individual was in close contact with during the period they were infectious. This helpline provided us with definitive advice on which individuals needed to be sent home to self-isolate.

Close contacts are:

- Those who have been in face-to-face contact with the individual for any length of time within one metre, including being coughed on, having a face-to-face conversation or having unprotected skin-to-skin contact.
- Those who have been in extended close contact with the individual, i.e. within one to two metres for more than 15 minutes.
- Those who have travelled in a small vehicle, e.g. a car, with the individual.

In line with the guidance, the **Year Three Cedar** children and associated staff will need to stay home and self-isolate until the end of **Friday, 25th December**. **This applies to any child or member of staff who was in attendance on Monday, 14th December – Tuesday, 15th December**. If your child was absent on these days, then the isolation period **will not** apply to your child, as the member of staff will not have been in contact with your child (due to their own isolation).

Please also be aware that the delay in getting this information to you is due to inconclusive testing results, which has meant we have been unable to confirm a positive result in the staff member. Therefore although their last contact with Year Three Cedar would have been Tuesday, they have not been in contact since.

If your child is well at the end of the 10 days period of self-isolation, then they can return to usual activities on Saturday, 26th December. The first day back for staff and children at school will be Tuesday.

5th January if they are well again. Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms within the 10 day self-isolation period.

Please see the link to: [Guidance for contacts of people with confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection who do not live with the person](#)

I am sure you will all join me in wishing the individual a safe recovery, and I thank you for your continued understanding and support with this.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Aaron Wanford
Executive Headteacher

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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.

People who do not have symptoms should not request a test unless this has been specifically requested by Public Health England or the local authority.

All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

The 10-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 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able to, 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

Please see the link to the PHE '[Stay at Home](#)' Guidance.

Symptoms of COVID 19

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

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

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

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

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/>