

Rowlands Gill Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers

Covid Positive Cases

I'm sure by now you will have heard about the sad reality that 4 of our class "bubbles" have "popped" since last Thursday, due to positive Covid cases.

Currently we have:

- 8 children who have tested positive for Covid
- 2 staff who have tested positive for Covid
- 7 other members of staff self-isolating (6 because of bubbles popping, 1 through community contact)
- 7 children self-isolating due to a positive case in their household or awaiting test results
- a further 89 children self-isolating due to their bubble popping

Today we only have 80 children in school and are now running with a skeleton staff which continues to prove challenging.

We had done so well managing to stay Covid-free until now but it has definitely hit us. Because of this, I just wanted to remind parents of key protocol to attempt to get us all to the end of term without any more cases.

Please DO NOT send your child to school if:

- your child is unwell at all. Several of the children who have tested positive have reported having a headache in the lead up to being positive
- you find out that your child has been in direct recent contact with someone who has tested positive, or who is awaiting the results of a PCR test
- a member of your household, or support bubble, tests positive or is awaiting the results of a PCR test

Please DO:

- promptly arrange a PCR test for your child if they display any of the Covid symptoms – a high temperature, new or continuous cough, loss of taste or smell. Lateral Flow Tests are not effective in identifying positive cases where the person has symptoms – a PCR must be arranged
- take your child for a PCR test at a testing site. Postal tests are very slow in getting a result to you and by the time we receive them, we could have an outbreak
- immediately inform us that you are arranging for your child (or member of the household) to be tested
- immediately inform us of the outcome of the test, whether it's a positive, or negative result

- use the covid email covid@rowlandsgillprimary.org.uk to report any of the above outside of office hours, or at the weekend. This email is linked to my personal mobile phone so will ensure that I pick up your message promptly and deal with it urgently
- remember that in most cases we will contact you from a blocked number, especially outside of office hours
- have a backup plan in place, should we call you to have your child collected or looked after due to a bubble bursting – this may be at short notice

As a school community we all need to work together to try to get to the end of term as safely as possible by following the above protocol. I know how difficult it is for parents when a bubble pops and I really appreciate how supportive and understanding parents of the children in the affected bubbles have been. This situation is not easy for anyone and I hope we can look forward to a better Autumn term when the rules will be different.

We look forward to welcoming 5R back tomorrow, and 2W on Monday. In the meantime, we wish a speedy recovery to the children and staff who have tested positive and are here to support the well-being of anyone who feels they need support in this matter.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Clarke".

Mrs L Clarke
Headteacher