



3rd November 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

A confirmed case of Covid19 at Whitegate End

We have heard today that a member of staff has tested positive for Covid 19. As we were informed at 8:30am we had to make the decision to ask all of Year 6 to stay away from school today.

This decision was made with public health Oldham. This has enabled us to accurately identify those pupils and staff who have been a contact. These have been confirmed by Oldham's Public Health Team.

We thank all of the parents who have been so understanding of the situation and supported us today. We fully appreciate how difficult is when these decisions are made but the safety of the children and staff is paramount and we are duty bound by Public Health protocols.

As a result of conversations with Public Health together we have identified that **a group of** Year 6 pupils have been in close contact with the member of staff and **must** self-isolate for 14 days. **Today is Day 1 of isolation and pupils can return to school on Tuesday 17th November.**

You will be notified if your child has been identified as a contact or not. All of the Year 6 who are not contacts will be expected to attend school from Wednesday.

Only the identified Year 6 pupils need to self-isolate, other members of the pupil's household do not need to self-isolate this includes siblings of those pupils identified in Year 6. They can still attend school and do not need to isolate.

For primary schools or settings, a contact is any child or adult within their bubble. To **clarify a contact**, is a child or adult who has been within 2 metres of the confirmed case **for more than 15 minutes**, or within **1 metre for 1 minute**, or **who has been face to face during social time**, or **who is in close contact on designated school transport**.

We have provided this information to Public Health using our management information records, timetables, seating plans and staff observation of pupils.

If your child has not been identified as a contact in Y6 they do not need to self-isolate.

Here are some of the actions we are currently undertaking:

- A text has been sent to ensure pupils don't attend school today.
- Work will be uploaded on Seesaw today by Mr Scott and will be uploaded each day for those pupils who have to isolate.
- A copy of our Home learning protocol is available on the school website.

'To be the best that we can be'

Responsibility, Resilience & Respect

- If your child develops any of the symptoms listed below, please book them a test, keep them off school whilst you wait for the results and then inform us of the results.
- We will continue with our system of additional cleaning of key touch points throughout the day.
- The classroom will be deep cleaned today.
- School will continue to follow advice from Public Health England with regards to pupils and adults working in school.
- Staff will continue to remind pupils about distancing and ensure regular hand washing and sanitising.
- Please help us by reminding your child about distancing and good hygiene.

It is important that we are all aware of the symptoms of Covid19 and only well child attend school or childcare settings.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Information about Covid19 symptoms and management of the virus can be found here, www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

If your child is identified as a contact, please try not to worry. For most people Covid19 is a mild illness.

If you or your child develops any of the above symptoms or become unwell please contact NHS 111 or your GP. Although Covid19 is circulating in the community, usual childhood illnesses are too and it is important that these are not missed.

If you have any questions or concerns please refer to the government website, www.gov.uk/coronavirus or you can contact me by e-mailing info@whitegateend.oldham.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs J Conway

CC: Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health, Oldham Council.

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