

7<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to let you know that Caroline Morrison (one of our assistant headteachers) and I have both tested positive for Covid-19. We're obviously grateful of contracting this after being fully vaccinated and when remote / home working is now so prevalent. I'm not sure how we have avoided it up until now!

This shows why frequent lateral flow testing and precautionary PCR testing is so valuable as we have both been completely asymptomatic.

Please be assured that the school remains as safe as it can be and that we will be following public health guidance at each step. Whilst we could have returned to using the hall for whole school assemblies and lunches, we decided to remain in classes for the time being for lunches and smaller groups for assemblies. We have additional cleaning throughout the school day and classes are diligent in reminding pupils to wash their hands, or support them to. Classes are also diligent in keeping classrooms clean. Staff and many pupils are testing twice weekly too. We now have CO2 monitors in all classes (our newer build has these monitors already and a ventilation system that is linked to levels increasing). We ensure that spaces are as well-ventilated as is comfortable for our pupils. Staff and pupils are welcome to wear masks if they wish. Our families have been really sensible in ensuring that children are tested or isolate if symptomatic. This has meant that we have been able to stay largely unaffected (other similar schools haven't been so fortunate). I know that this is additional stress for you, but you have done this for the collective good.

There is no guarantee however that we will remain completely immune to the virus as a school, as we and our families mix more. I know it worries us and I'm sure you too that contacts of those who have tested positive can continue to attend school and do not need to self-isolate, but these are the guidelines that we are working within. For some of you, your child being able to attend school is vital and having to stay at home would be extremely challenging. Frequent lateral flow and precautionary PCRs are really important so that those who are positive can isolate as quickly as possible. I have reminded staff of maintaining our high-standards with this.

For your child, aside from our teaching commitment, their school day will be completely unaffected and Luke Skillington (our other assistant headteacher) will be in school and is an extremely able and supportive senior leader and teacher who is there to support staff and parents when daily issues arise. He and Sadie Fletcher are both 'Designated Safeguarding Leads'.

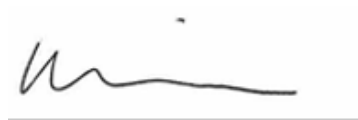
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Our office team will ably support him to ensure that procedures such as fire evacuation can happen effectively. Caroline and I are still 'at work' and continue to lead the school, if from home. The school day is, however, extremely busy and there are always issues to attend to for those working on site which cannot be as easily done from home. Please be patient with the office team and senior leaders if issues and questions are dealt with less quickly than you would expect.

Thank you for your continued support.



Kate Davies

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