Dear Parents,

**Re: IMPORTANT UPDATE- COVID 19**

We have been advised by Public Health England that there is a confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 within our school. As we are a special school our ‘outbreak’ threshold is lower than that of a mainstream setting. We have several members of staff with confirmed cases.

We are continuing to monitor the situation and are working closely with Public Health England and our Local Public Health Team. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child.

We have spoken to our local public health team today to complete a Risk Assessment and as a result they have advised of us of some enhanced measures we should to put in place for the next 7 days. This advice has been put in place in the best interests of the pupils at school and to that end, is to keep them safe.

The advice, in summary, is as follows:

* We are asking parents to be vigilant with their children’s symptoms and please seek a test before coming into school if your child displays any of the symptoms or is unwell at all.
* All secondary pupils should be doing routine twice weekly LFD testing and registering the results with NHS track & trace. If you child gets a positive result, you must inform school immediately. You can do this by calling us, or if it’s outside of school hours, you can email: greenparkschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk
* If a child or member of staff is positive they should stay off school for at least 5 days, following the day of the onset of their symptoms or, if asymptomatic, from the day of the positive test result. They can return after 5 full days if they get 2 consecutive negative results from days 5-10.
* For classes affected by positive cases, we will limit their contact with other class groups across school and they will operate in a class bubble for the next 7 days.
* All staff in affected classes have been asked to carry out close contact daily testing for the next 7 days.
* We will undertake a deep clean of affected classes.
* Where possible we will hold joint events outside, so as the weather is due to get colder this week, please send your child in warm coats etc.
* We may have to postpone or scale down, joint events or visitors in school, if the current case number increases significantly. We will communicate this, as the events approach.
* Public Health have asked us to advise all our school community, that the vaccine is the best defence against the virus and our best chance of life getting back to normal. So, if you or your child are eligible, please get the vaccine. Check your eligibility here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Public Health have also advised us that numbers of the infection are increasing across the City and appear to be affecting adults more than children at the moment. This means that staffing may be put under increased pressure in the coming weeks and impact on the day to day running. This may result in partial or full closure of some classes in school if staffing levels become critically low. We will take this measure as a last resort and will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible via text messages, Facebook posts or an alert on the website.

**Useful reminders:**

**Symptoms**

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

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature
* 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 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.

**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 and before you leave your house.
* 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/>

School and parents have worked so well throughout this pandemic and our team are all grateful for your support Please help us to keep children safe and our school operating smoothly by following this advice. Keep this amazing effort up so we can ensure our school can support our children.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine Dawney

Headteacher