Dear Parents,

**Re: IMPORTANT UPDATE: COVID 19**

We have been advised by Public Health England that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your child’s cluster bubble.

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.

Public Health England and the local Public Health team have given us further advice which is specific to our school and the nature of our pupils. 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:

All pupils:

* All close contacts of any case in school will be strongly encouraged to get a PCR test and not return to school until we have received a negative test result. We will need you to email the results of these tests to greenparkschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk with the subject ‘PCR Result’ and your child’s initials.
* If you choose not to test your child, then you will be asked to keep them off school for the isolation period, which could be up to 10 days.
* If you will struggle to assist your child with a PCR Test, for medical or sensory reasons, then please contact us and we can give you some further advice.
* We will be closely monitoring our pupils and we have been asked by Public Health, that if a child displays any changes, or signs of being unwell, we will ask you to collect them and book a PCR test. If the test is negative, pupils should be well for at least 48 hours before returning to school.
* If you have positive case in your household, you must **all** book a PCR and stay off school until we have the pupil’s negative result or follow the advice above. In this scenario, if a there is a positive case in a member of staff household, they too will be asked to undertake a PCR test and if negative they can continue to come to work but will be asked to complete daily Lateral Flow Tests, until the 10th day after the last positive test result in their household.

For pupils in Year 7 -Year 14 (Secondary)

* For **secondary aged pupils and all staff**, Lateral Flow Testing should ordinarily, be taking place **twice weekly** and results must be emailed into school each time. They should be sent to: lftresults@greenparkschool.co.uk. It is **extremely important** that LFTs are undertaken twice weekly, as there are still many people that do not show any sign of illness despite carrying the virus. We are being asked to increase the number of tests results we are receiving from pupils as there has been a dip in reporting since returning to school and this is key to ensuring we protect pupils and staff. Thank you to those of you that have continued to do this consistently.
* Public Health England have again asked us, to stress to our school community the importance of being vaccinated against COVID 19. Anyone who is eligible and lives or works in Wolverhampton, can now get a vaccine at any of the walk-in clinics, without needing to book: <https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-and-information/vaccine/walk-in-vaccinations>

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home, except to get a PCR COVID Test, **this should be booked within 48hours of the onset of symptoms** and then follow the advice from Track & Trace. Again, we will need to evidence of any test result. 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.

If your child is not displaying one of these symptoms but is unwell in anyway, a test must be booked and when prompted or asked why you need a test, then you say that you have been advised to by your local Public Health Team.

**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 We have a long term ahead, 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