



Billingshurst Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers

Covid19 cases

Since half term, and especially this week, we have seen a rise in cases of Covid19 in school. This has led us to seek advice as we have reached the threshold of an outbreak situation. This is contained and is where we have 5 linked cases. However, we are putting measures in place to limit any further spread:

- Assemblies will remain on hold and will only return once we have low case numbers
- From today, P.E. will take place outdoors only
- Protection of Year group bubbles will continue
- Visitors to the school will remain restricted
- Parents attending any meetings, including next week's extended parents meeting, will be required to wear a mask
- I would encourage parents to regularly use Lateral Flow tests with their children. Although these are not recommended as an action in the guidance, the tests can be used on primary age children and these tests have picked up a significant number of asymptomatic cases. If you could do these twice a week, it would be a great help. If you need to order Lateral Flow tests
- Staff will be encouraged to wear masks in communal areas

I would also strongly recommend that you and your children take twice-weekly Lateral Flow tests. Many parents are doing this and, as a result, a significant number of positive Covid19 cases have been identified. You can get LFT tests sent to you via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Although tests are recommended for children 11 years of age and older, they can be used effectively with younger children. If you, or any member of your family test positive on a Lateral Flow Test, the local authority recommend all members of the household taking a PCR test within 2 days.

We have significant evidence that the main symptom that children are showing is a headache, without any of the identified symptoms. If your child has a headache, that does not go away with a drink of water, we will contact you and recommend a Lateral Flow Test and, if possible, a PCR.

If your child is in the class where the raised number of cases are, you will receive a third letter. If you do not receive a third letter, please do not phone the school office to check as they are managing a high level of calls. If you need further information, please follow the links on the first 'Warn and Inform' letter I sent out to you all earlier today.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

