



Billingshurst Primary School
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Increasing Covid19 cases

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the weekend we have had further cases of Covid19 amongst the staff and the children. The impact on staffing is across the school as staff have tested positive, are isolating according to guidance or are unwell for other reasons. Currently all the teachers in Year 5 are not in school. We have good supply teachers in the classes and we are working with them to ensure that the children continue to access the full curriculum and enjoy their learning.

For the next few days at least it is likely that your child may have a different teacher. In addition to absences we are releasing teachers to attend the Extended Parents Meetings for children with SEND. We also have a number of Learning Support Assistants who are unwell. If your child has specific support from a LSA, it may be a different one than usual or, in some cases, that support will not be there for a few days. The teachers will support your child in class and we are monitoring the situation closely. We are also prioritising support for children with the highest level of need.

A huge thank you to you all for doing the daily lateral flow tests with your children, Tens and tens of asymptomatic cases have been identified. We know that children do not seem to suffer unduly with Covid19 but adults can and we have a number who are, or have been, very poorly. We want to reduce the risk to adults – apart from their own health and wellbeing, we need the adults to keep the school open - so please keep lateral flow testing each day for at least this week and let us know any positive results as soon as possible.

We have also been made aware of circumstances where a child is repeatedly positive on lateral flows but negative on a PCR. The advice is that this may be due to a new variant and repeated positive lateral flow tests should be treated as a positive PCR.

If you have any questions, please visit the government advice pages on their website. I will update you again as soon as the situation improves or changes.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

