



17 December 2020

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Dear Parent/Carer

Update on COVID Cases

I am writing to provide you with an update on the current Covid situation in the school. After holding out against the pandemic for many months we were finally faced with our first positive case at the beginning of the week which was followed soon after by a further positive test for another member of staff. By now, you should also have received a third standard notification letter, as we were informed of a further positive test result for a member of staff today.

All of these staff members are currently self-isolating at home and close contacts have now been identified and advised. This has resulted in a small number of other staff being advised to self-isolate, as well as a small number of pupils. I would also point out that in our discussions with Public Health we have been unable to establish a link between any of these three cases.

This is a very anxious time for our school community, and I can assure you that the health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff remains our top priority. I believe that all staff have played their part in following protocols in a way designed to minimise risk to members of our school community. As well as contact tracing, this has also involved following cleaning protocols. Mitie, the Facilities Management company in the campus, has been undertaking additional cleaning since we returned to school in August and there are specific hygiene protocols for positive cases that are also being followed. I can further assure you that all steps taken by the school have involved liaison with Public Health Scotland and the Local Authority.

I appreciate that some parents may feel frustrated by the lack of detail in the event of positive cases. Understandably, they would like to know whether, for example, the staff member is primary or secondary or if they are a teacher or a PSA? There is, however, a very strict limit to the amount of information that can be shared as staff and pupils' right to privacy must also be respected. Ultimately the reason parents want to know such detail is to support them in judging the risk to their child. On this point, I can assure parents that where such a risk has been identified, they will be contacted as a matter of urgency.



"Normal" absences continue to happen – the usual ailments that caused staff to be absent from work previously are still there. Where staff have cold/flu symptoms which are consistent with coronavirus symptoms, we are advising that they request a test which will result in them self-isolating until they receive a negative result and can safely return to school. This may mean that some absences are longer than normal, but we consider that this precautionary approach is proportionate in light of the situation we are currently facing. These additional absences have put staffing under considerable pressure this week and I would ask parents and pupils to bear with us while we push on to Christmas. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank staff for pulling together so well this week under these very challenging circumstances.

I hope that this additional information will provide some reassurance, but if you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school at:breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher