



St Ippolyts C.E. (Aided) Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs. R. E. Peddie BEd(Hons) NPQH

Ashbrook Lane, St. Ippolyts, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 7PB
Tel: 01462 432080 Fax: 01462 438524 Email: admin@stipps.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.stipps.herts.sch.uk



30th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Coronavirus outbreak update

I am writing to update you on the situation with our Covid outbreak situation and to answer some of the frequently asked questions coming through from parents.

Currently we have 13 positive cases across the school, and I am very grateful to you as parents for getting your children tested, as many of these children showed no prior signs of illness at all.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are children still coming to school when there is Covid in their household?

Under the latest guidance, children do not have to self-isolate if they are a close contact, and because of this, I am not allowed to ask parents to keep siblings off school.

However, when parents *choose* to keep children away from school when there is Covid in the household, I am very grateful and fully supportive of their decision to do so, to prevent any further infections.

If cases continue to escalate, then restricting siblings from attending could be an additional measure imposed by Public Health, but it is not a decision I am permitted to take without their instruction.

Why are children coming to school when they have been for a PCR test?

For the same reason listed above, under the latest guidance, children do not have to self-isolate if they are a close contact, and so I cannot insist they stay off school until their negative result has been received. **If the child has been for a PCR test because they have symptoms, then they should stay at home until the results are in.**

However, when parents *choose* to keep children away from school until they are sure their results are negative, I am very grateful and fully supportive of their decision to do so, to prevent any further infections.

How do we know if positive cases are the new Omicron variant?

If Omicron were to be identified, NHS Test and Trace would inform the family and would handle all notifications of close contacts and any implications for school.

What symptoms are we looking out for?

The typical Covid symptoms to look out for are a high temperature, continuous cough, or loss of taste or smell.

However, most of the children who have tested positive in this outbreak at school have been asymptomatic (no signs of illness at all) or have started with things like tummy upsets, sore throats and headaches. For this reason, please do not rule out the possibility of Covid just because your child does not have one of the typical symptoms. Please err on the side of caution and get them tested if they are not well.

A reminder about timings

IMPORTANT: With the staggered timings, there is a **specific time for drop off and collection: PLEASE BE ON TIME**. There is not a window of time in which to arrive like there is when the school is operating normally.

	TIMES	DROP OFF & COLLECTION POINTS
Class 1	8.45 – 3.15	Class 1 gate at front
Class 2	9.00 – 3.30	Usual gate at back, main front doors at hometime
Class 3	8.45 – 3.15	Usual gate at back in the morning, top of the drive for hometime
Class 4	9.00 – 3.30	Playground for morning, top of the drive home time
Class 5	8.45 – 3.15	UKS2 yard
Class 6	9.00 – 3.30	UKS2 yard

I know that having siblings in each of the different time slots is highly inconvenient, especially when the weather is cold. Last time we were in this position, some families chose to make use of the Early Bird facility and booked places so they could bring both children in at the same time. I also know that many of you paired up with other parents and coordinated the drop offs together, which worked well.

Hopefully this will be a short-term measure and I thank you for your patience.

CONTACT DETAILS

A small number of parents told us they did not receive the letter sent by email last week. It is vital that we have your up-to-date contact details if you have changed email addresses.

In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who are affected by Covid at this time, and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

Kind regards



Mrs RE Peddie
Headteacher