

Aldryngton Primary School

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Headteacher: Mark Wieder

Covid Update: 8th October

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Following my earlier letter this week, I am writing to update you further following my meeting yesterday afternoon about additional controls to manage the outbreak in Middle School. Since my last communication, we have had a further two cases confirmed by PCR and two others where a child has tested positive on a lateral flow and we are awaiting the confirmatory PCR result. All of these cases have been in Middle School.

From Monday 11th October, we will go back to our staggered finish times. Please see details below:

Area of School	Finish Time
Foundation Stage	3:15
Lower School	3:05
Middle School	3:10
Upper School	3:15

Please continue to use the one-way system, if you are waiting for a sibling at a different time, please stand socially distanced in the netball court area. For families with a sibling in Foundation Stage, please collect the oldest child first. You will then need to follow the one-way system out at the field gate before collecting the Foundation Stage child from the usual location.

In my letter to you on Wednesday, I mentioned the importance of working together to control the outbreak at the school currently. I mentioned some additional advice, that families could follow to reduce the likelihood of onward infections in the school. Please find a summary of this advice again below:

Scenario	Advice
My child has any of the three main symptoms	Child isolates and obtains a PCR test. Inform school of result.
My child has been identified as a close contact	Child isolates, obtains a PCR test. If negative returns back to school.
A sibling tests positive	Child isolates, obtains a PCR test between days 3-5, after siblings positive test. Child returns back to school if negative

I am aware that this advice means that potentially more children could be isolating for shorter periods. Therefore, to speed up the current process of notifying the school and school setting work, the school from Monday 11th October will have the teaching presentations used with the children in school on Microsoft Teams each week. Families with children isolating will be able to access this straight away as well as completing extra work on any of our online learning platforms. Work set can then be completed at home and teachers will then provide feedback when the pupil returns back to school. There will be no requirement to upload and submit via Teams. We recognise that families



may be forced into challenging positions and of course children and parents may be unwell themselves during Covid isolation periods. Therefore, I would like to reiterate this message- do what you can. There will be no judgement from staff based on what the children can or cannot compete during an isolation period. Every family and child will have a unique situation.

Having monitored the cases and further information shared from families, I can report back to you that although there are three main symptoms of Covid, there are many examples of where these three main symptoms have not been present, but a positive result has been returned. **We are all aware that there are asymptomatic cases, but we have also had positive cases where children had been complaining of headaches, had an upset stomach and general tiredness/ malaise.**

As I have previously communicated, PCR tests are 50% more effective in picking up Covid cases, so the use of these are always preferable and should be used if your child is unwell or has been a close contact. I will urge families that if any doubt, please keep your child off school and obtain a PCR test.

We all want Covid out of Aldryngton and our community and there is one request that I ask of all families in Middle School this weekend. This is a request that when used in other schools with an outbreak has the most success in breaking down lines of transmission. Please could all families with a child in Middle School arrange for a PCR test for their child this weekend and if possible, keep your child off until a negative PCR result has returned. You can book a PCR test as a close contact by using the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

I know that this is a big ask for families, but in order to move forward out of the outbreak situation we currently find ourselves in, we need to do this. In my meeting yesterday, this was cited as the most successful way in breaking down lines of transmission.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark Wieder

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Wieder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'W'.

Mark Wieder
Headteacher