



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

25th November 2021

Update for ALL Parents, Staff & Governors – Thursday 25th November 2021

Dear Parents, Staff & Governors,

As you will all be aware today we have had further positive cases of COVID confirmed and we are waiting for a small number of PCR test results which are pending.

Today, I have needed to contact the parents of our Year 3 and 5 children to ask them to take their children for a PCR test. This is purely a precautionary measure.

As children have been taken for PCR tests we are having a small number of asymptomatic cases being identified. That means the children present no symptoms and are coming to school, which is the advice we have received from the Health Protection Team: as long as children do not have symptoms and do not test positive then they can continue to come to school.

As I write this to you, we have now contacted all year groups, over the last two weeks and asked that our children have a PCR test. Of course, if your child has recently had COVID then you should not have them retested within 90 days of the positive test result.

Today I made the decision to cancel the Reception Curriculum Workshop as many of our parents who wished to attend are now looking after their children at home. Instead, we have recorded a video presentation which will be shared tomorrow.

Each day, we evaluate the number of cases and try to determine the best course of action underpinned by advice by the Health Protection team.

Even though it may be a little unnerving to be asked to take your child for a PCR test I would like to reassure we are doing all that we can to minimise the spread of COVID and keep everyone safe, at this very difficult time and thank you for all that you are doing.

Unfortunately, we are now at the point where all Key Stage 2 classes have been asked to have a PCR test and as such I no longer feel we can go ahead with the Key Stage 2 Disco which was planned for next Tuesday, as this was to be an indoor event. I feel it would be fairer on all the children to postpone this event until such a time, sometime after Christmas when all of our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children can come together for a dance and enjoy themselves.

Having said that, we are still planning on holding our FOBs meeting 'face to face' tomorrow in school as well as our Bi-Annual Christmas Fair at this stage, as we feel these events can be more easily controlled. At this time, we are planning to hold our Christmas Fair outside and are drafting a risk assessment with detailed protective measures which will be shared with the Health Protection team prior to the event.

We are also hoping to present our Key Stage 1 Nativity on the 9th and 10th of December 'face to face' for those parents who have booked tickets. We hope, as long as there are no further cases in the Year 1 and 2 classes that they will be removed from isolation on Monday 29th November enabling them time to practice and get ready for their performances.

Unfortunately, due to the amount of pending PCR test results in our Reception/Year 1 classes I can not confirm, at this stage, whether the Reception Christmas Assembly will be presented to parents as a 'face to face' performance or whether it will have to be recorded and shared that way. It is too early to make that decision and we have to be guided by the amount of confirmed cases in those classes a little closer to the performance date. I will keep you informed.

We are also planning on going Carol Singing around the village. This will be for our Y5 & 6 Choir children and we hope to do this on Monday 6th December. A letter is coming out shortly to those parents. Both parents and children in the choir are invited to attend and accompany us on a route around the village ending up back at school for cookies, home made shortbread and hot chocolate. We will let our whole school family know when and where we will be on that night, in case you wish to join us at our Candlelit Carols event.

At this time approximately 10% of our school population are isolating due to a positive test result and in many cases members of our school family are re-joining us daily. Today, we removed Year 6 from isolation and hope to be able to do so to our Year 1 and 2 classes on Monday 29th November.

Our Year 3 and 5 classes have not been put in to isolation. We await to see the result of the children's PCR tests and hope that we will not need to. If that changes I will write to those parents.

We are doing all we can as a school to limit the spread of COVID and minimise its impact on our school family whether they are at home or at school.

I ask for your support and understanding at these times.

We will work through this, as indeed we are, as our Year 6 and our Year 1 and 2 classes show as they begin to return to 'normal school life' and hope that the other classes will do the same over time.

I hope this goes some way to reassure you and clarify what is happening at our school.

Stay safe.

Kind regards



Len Batey
Headteacher