

# BOURNE ABBEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY ACADEMY

Executive Headteacher: Mrs S J Moore

Head of School: Mrs S L Buttress

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Bourne

Tel: 422163

28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

You may be aware that we have now had several positive cases of Coronavirus amongst our pupils and staff at school. If this had been the situation in the summer term we would have sent at least 8 bubbles home. Thanks to our parents/carers and staff following COVID-19 procedures, those children and staff have self-isolated or are self-isolating at home for the required number of days.

DfE guidance regarding positive cases is that we should seek Public Health advice and may need to consider additional safety measures if we meet the following thresholds:

- 5 children, pupils or staff **who are likely to have mixed closely**, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils or staff **who are likely to have mixed closely**, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Unfortunately, we have now reached this threshold in our Year 2. Today we have put our Outbreak Management Plan into operation and contacted the DfE and Public Health England.

In order to minimise transmission we are going to keep our 3 Year 2 classes in their class bubbles until October half-term. We will make suitable arrangements for lunchtime and playtimes and they will have daily Collective Worship virtually in classrooms. Most importantly, we will be supporting the children with their mental health and wellbeing as they return to a class bubble situation. Also importantly (for the children), their vintage car visit will still go ahead outside in class bubbles this week.

So far, we have been fortunate to be able to utilise our fabulous non-teaching Senior Leaders and wonderful job share partners to cover classes when a teacher has been absent due to positive COVID-19 test. We are currently seeking advice from Public Health England and the DfE for the eventuality that we simply cannot put a member of staff in front of a class due to Coronavirus. This is obviously the last thing we want to happen, but we are awaiting advice about the possibility of having to send a class bubble home to isolate in the future. We are sure you will appreciate how challenging and difficult this decision will be as we understand both the impact on our children's education, mental health and wellbeing and your home/work commitments.

In the meantime, please can we reassure you that we are following our robust hygiene and safety measures in place at school.

May we also take this opportunity to remind you that pupils should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). Parents/carers should follow Public Health advice on [when to self-isolate and what to do](#).

Pupils who develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#), however mild, will be sent home and parents/carers should follow Public Health advice.

In light of increased numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, and in line with other schools locally, we would ask that you wear a face covering at the start and end of the school day, if you are able. Can we also ask that only one parent or carer does the drop off and pick up, therefore minimising the number of adults on the school site.

Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S J Moore', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S J Moore  
Executive Headteacher