

Dear parents/carers,

Positive case in school – Advice to pupils to self-isolate.

Following the school being informed of a positive case we have taken advice from Public Health England, who for the dates encompassed for self-isolation have helped us to identify groups which would come under the guidance of close proximity.

The current guidance for a close proximity contact is:

- Anyone who lives in the same household as someone with COVID 19 symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID 19
- **Anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive with a PCR test:**
 - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre.
 - been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact
 - sexual contacts
 - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
 - travelled in the same vehicle or plane.

Since the first school closures as a result of Covid 19 in March 2020 we have had rigorous operational risk assessments for school in place and have continually reviewed and adapted these in light of the latest government and local authority guidance. As part of the school risk assessment we have operated with identified bubbles of staff and children in order to try to maintain social distancing for pupils and the safest operation of school possible.

Due to the demand for extended day provision (after school club and breakfast club) from our families a number of staff are required to work across different bubbles in order to facilitate this provision and there are children within every class bubble in school who access this provision. This therefore means that children in all classes could potentially be identified as a close contact for the positive case in school. Government guidance states that staff can work across different bubbles and should, where possible, offer wrap around care provision if this can be facilitated.

The dates identified linked to the positive case include Monday 4th January when we had, at government direction, full opening of school for all children, including breakfast club, after school club and nursery. This has meant that a significant number of pupils and staff have been identified as close contacts and have been informed of the need to self-isolate.

It has been widely reported that the most recent strain of COVID is far more virulent. This, alongside the close proximity guidance means that there is no way we can with certainty identify who may or may not be a close contact and that no risk assessment (no matter how rigorous) could fully mitigate this circumstance occurring.

Breck Staff Team and Governors

9th January 2021

