



Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you all share our frustration at the ongoing disruption in school due to COVID-19. In recent months we have seen a resurgence of cases within the Manchester area, in particular driven by the so-called Delta variant which is seemingly more contagious amongst children. We can all continue to help reduce the risk of disruption through continuing to follow guidelines and, where possible, undertaking regular lateral flow testing to help identify asymptomatic cases.

I must also remind everyone that if you or someone in your support bubble is symptomatic then everyone must immediately self-isolate pending PCR test results. Similarly, a positive lateral flow requires the whole support bubble to immediately self-isolate pending PCR test results.

Throughout the pandemic there have been instances where this has not been followed and children have continued to attend school pending test results. This has already resulted in 100s of children unnecessarily being forced to self-isolate. There is no excuse for ignorance (wilful or not). We have all had to make difficult sacrifices over this period but the impact of these decisions has been wide-ranging. Children have not only missed out on further periods of face-to-face education but also activities such as sports day, trips, social contact, family visits and out-of-school clubs, to mention but a few. Staff have been similarly impacted through these actions, in addition to the extra administrative burden of identifying affected pupils and facilitating remote learning. Many families face difficulties with juggling childcare and work or are prevented from seeing friends and family.

The recent adjustments to class-bubbles for KS2 has reduced the number of children required to self-isolate in recent weeks. It remains important that self-isolation periods are adhered to correctly and not ended early.



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The vast majority of families are correctly following guidelines which is really appreciated. With only a few weeks left before the school holidays, I urge all of us to stick to the rules so that we can minimise disruption as much as possible. Case numbers are rising in our local area and, whatever our own situation, we should remember that children are not vaccinated.

As things are slowly unlocking it is perhaps understandable that we look ahead to the future and I hope that a return to more normal arrangements at school will become possible soon. In the meantime please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Price

Chair of Governors

Useful healthcare guidance links:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

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