



Bussage C. of E. (Aided) Primary School
The Ridgeway, Bussage, Stroud, Glos.
GL6 8FW

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20th October 2021

Dear Parents,

Further to my letter yesterday, I am acutely aware of the rising levels of anxiety throughout the school community about the increasing rates of COVID 19 infections in this locality. I am also aware that the situation of every family is different with regards to vulnerable relatives or other factors.

One of the issues we are finding at the moment is that in one or two cases, parents are informing one another via social media about COVID positive tests, before telling the school. The school is then being criticised for not communicating information it doesn't have. Can I please ask parents to inform the school about any positive case, before they take to social media? Many thanks.

In our Outbreak Management Plan, (see website) the threshold for an outbreak is 5 people in a close contact group (a class) or 10% of the children and staff of the entire school population (about 20). We are not at the threshold **yet** and therefore at the moment there are no plans to change the operational running of the school.

I have spoken today with the Local Authority Covid Response Team who reiterated that schools should **not** be giving out case numbers per class. However, I do think parents need to be kept informed as to the rates of infection within our setting to inform decision making depending on individual circumstances. I shall be exploring the best way to do this over the next couple of days.

For context, the cases we have been informed of here at Bussage this week are - **three** confirmed PCR cases in children across the school and **one** adult. I understand that we have also had **three** children across the school with positive Lateral Flow Tests. Interestingly, in the guidance I have quoted below, it states, "**Please note that LFD tests are not suitable for children under the age of 11.**" If parents are being extra vigilant at a time of rising infection rates and want to use Lateral Flow Testing as another protection mechanism for their family and the community then I have to say I am fully supportive of this.

Our current infection rate is far lower than that of many neighbouring schools. We clearly want to do everything we can to keep it that way. So regular updates will be coming from us as the situation unfolds.

I have put the Guidance below.

Thank you again for your support as we continue to work together.

Kind regards

A Ferguson

Head Teacher



Advice to All Parents - warn and inform

Dear Parents,

We have been advised that there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Bussage C of E Primary School

We know that you may find this concerning but we are continuing to monitor the situation and ensure the required controls are in place. This letter is to inform you of the current situation and provide advice on how to support your child. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

Following the change in guidance on 19 July 2021, the school/nursery/child-care setting will continue to ensure confirmed cases of COVID-19 do not attend until the end of their self-isolation period but contact tracing within the school setting will no longer continue. To help prevent avoidable spread, we encourage staff and families to continue with the twice weekly LFD testing, to inform us of the result and to follow-up any positive results with a confirmatory PCR test. **Please note that LFD tests are not suitable for children under the age of 11.** You may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to get a PCR test if your child has been identified as a close contact.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at any time, however mild, please isolate as a household and book a test for the person with symptoms (even if they have already taken a test). Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A temperature, and/or
- A loss of, or change to, sense of taste and/or smell.

You can book a test through <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If the test is negative, your child can return to school once they are well and have been fever free (without the support of paracetamol or Calpol) for at least 24 hours.

If the test is positive your household must self-isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms started, unless any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Even if you do not have symptoms, you should still:

- get a [PCR test on GOV.UK](#) to check if you have COVID-19
- follow advice on [how to avoid catching and spreading COVID-19](#)
- consider limiting contact with [people who are at higher risk from COVID-19](#)
- if symptoms develop, isolate and get tested

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111. **For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.**

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

How to stop COVID-19 spreading: There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Keep indoor spaces as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in, even if for a short period a day
- Participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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