



3rd October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Keeping you in the picture – How is COVID currently impacting Haytor View?

As we progress through the Autumn Term it seems an appropriate time to share with you the challenges that positive cases of COVID are currently having within our school community. During the summer term, whilst there were odd cases among children and staff these did not escalate in number or impact upon day-to-day school life.

This term, while numbers of children experiencing positive tests remain relatively low, the picture of staff cases is a little different. Having had 2 cases among staff members in the first week of term, this week we find ourselves managing with 3 further cases that have emerged over the weekend. Assuming that staff recover speedily they are required to spend 5 days following testing out of the school.

Depending upon where your child is within the school you may well have seen a change in typical provision arrangements this morning due to staff absence. We are grateful for the support and reassurance that you provide to your children in these circumstances. Be assured that we will always be seeking the most appropriate solutions to the periods, mindful of the need for children to see and be alongside familiar faces. We are confident in the arrangements that we are putting in place but felt it appropriate to share the position with you given its unusual nature.

The purpose of this letter is simply to share information with you, not raise levels of concern or change your behaviours in relation to supporting your child's health. Guidance remains unchanged with regard to testing – routine/regular testing is not being advised.

Just to provide a point of reference, government guidance currently states:-

*Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.*

*Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.*

Where children receive a positive COVID test, we would ask that you contact us to share this information. Guidance suggests children should stay away from school for 3 days, returning after this period if they feel well and are not suffering with a high temperature.

Once again, thank-you for the reassurance and care that you are providing to your children when faced with the unexpected changes this morning, and be assured that we have their learning and emotional needs at the forefront of our minds during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton  
Co-Head Teacher