



# Eastlea Y5 Covid next steps



## 15/11/21

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to say a huge thank you for your support this weekend with the measures we had to take to prevent potential further spread of Covid infection in the Year 5 class. All parents of pupils in Y5 were contacted over the weekend and were asked to seek a PCR test for their child as a precaution and we had 100% support with this. We currently have 5 positive cases identified and some further results still pending. Thank you for your support in ensuring that only when a negative PCR result is received that your children are returning to school – I realise that this must have been very inconvenient.

Discussions with a representative from the County Public Health Team this morning were very supportive and the Eastlea response to this 'spike' in cases was described as being 'fantastic'.

The additional measures put in place since half term which you were notified about on 1<sup>st</sup> November will be continued. These will now be supplemented by extra contingency plans which are set out below:

- Class zones will be reintroduced for all classes at breaks and lunchtimes so the children will play on the yard with those in their own year group only for the time being.
- Class groups will be kept in separate 'bubbles' for all clubs (outdoor as well as indoor).
- Times for lunchtime will be amended so that children from different classes are separated even further while they are in the hall.
- As well as leaving via the main entrance, pupils from Y5 and Y6 will now come in via this door in the mornings, to maintain better distancing from Nursery/Reception pupils and parents.

High levels of ventilation and hand hygiene will obviously be maintained as a top priority and staff have been asked to be alert to any symptoms of illness/Covid and ask parents to seek a test if there are any concerns.

**The Public Health Team nurse also asked that we reinforce with you that even if your child has had a negative PCR result this weekend, it does not mean that are less likely to get Covid.** Please continue to be vigilant and if your child shows signs of being unwell, even if it is not with the usual Covid symptoms then seek a PCR test – some positive cases have involved children with tiredness, sore throats, upset stomachs and headaches (not just the common coughs and fever).

**If you wish to do regular LFD tests for your child that is fine, but remember that these are not always guaranteed to be accurate (e.g. we had some cases this weekend in which a positive PCR test followed a negative Lateral Flow) so if your child is unwell or you are in doubt then please seek a PCR.**

If things settle down again in the following days in terms of the number of cases at Eastlea we hope to be able to relax some of these extra contingency plans in the coming weeks. We will let you know how things progress.

Thank you again for your tremendous support and if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me in school.

Miss E Beeston, Head Teacher