



High Street, Blakeney, GL15 4EB
Telephone: 01594 510270
Fax: 01594 510380
e-Mail: admin@blakeney.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.blakeney.school.co.uk



Walmore Hill, Minsterworth, GL2 8LA
Telephone: 01452 750373
Fax: 01452 750373
e-Mail: admin@walmorehill.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.walmorehill.school.co.uk



School Road, Pillowell, GL15 4QT
Telephone: 01594 562244
Fax: 01594 564945
e-Mail: admin@pillowell.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.pillowellschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

2nd December 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well, and your Christmas preparations are going to plan.

I would like to bring to your attention the current situation in our school, for which I have taken advice for, from The Health Protection Team.

As with many schools not just locally, but nationally, there is an increased amount of positive PCR Results now being reported and confirmed. It would appear that the majority of cases are now linked to primary schools, through either a member of the school being positive, or a close contact of someone.

Since the end of restrictions in July, there has been an attempt to operate as near to normal as possible in school, and I am proud of our adjustments and flexibility around this, plus of course grateful for your understanding, in how we do things.

Over the last week or so, there has been an 'upswing' in cases at school. Currently we have 3 pupils in two of our classes who have tested positive with a PCR test.

However, there is an increasing number of pupils who have been taken for a PCR test. We are still waiting for those results. There are approximately 12 children to whom this applies.

There are different reasons why these pupils are having PCR tests.

1. Firstly, they may have had close contact with somebody who is a confirmed positive case. This is usually a close family member, but not exclusively.
2. Secondly, they may have tested as positive on a rapid LFT test (which most people can do at home). The rule then is for a PCR test to be taken, which take 1-2 days for the results to return.
3. Thirdly, they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. A PCR test should be taken if this is the case, even if there is a negative LFT test).

Please note, the above reasons apply to adults too.

When a child becomes ill in school, for whatever reason, we will always inform you. If, however, your child is displaying any of the symptoms, we will not only call you, but expect you to take your child for a PCR test, **as the guidance makes clear.**

I would like to stress that we do not ask you to do this for any other reason than to try and safeguard everybody's health and safety, as well as their well-being.

This disease is very difficult to predict. Sometimes it runs through a class or family easily. What I have learnt over the last 3 months, is that many of the symptoms go undetected, especially in children, as they appear to be nothing more than a cold or a 'sniffle' and are treated as such. I know through personal experience that people who are asymptomatic, would go undetected unless a test was given. I also know that there is a more than reasonable chance that if a family member has COVID-19, then other people within the family are likely to become positive too.

I know that booking and travelling for a PCR test is sometimes inconvenient.

Finally, if your child is poorly, and has a PCR test which is returned as negative, this shouldn't be a reason to send them to school, regardless. It would be quite difficult to manage the school and learning if the classes were full of poorly children, and they were there simply because they didn't have COVID. They should only come to school if they are well enough.

I am always grateful for the support that you show the staff at our school. Please remember that you should always speak to them in a polite and courteous manner, no matter how difficult a situation may be. This is a stressful time for everybody, and school staff are trying to operate within the guidelines, and are trying to keep everybody safe.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Stevenson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brett Stevenson
Headteacher

