

20th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Covid-19 Update

I wanted to write to you to thank you for your support this term. We are really pleased with the positive learning happening in each year group at Alton Close. As you will know, we have put in place a series of robust measures to ensure this is done safely and in line with the government's guidance. This has been working very well.

Of course, Covid-19 is still widespread across the country and, when individual cases occur within our school community, we will take the advice of Public Health England (PHE) and adopt any additional steps they ask us to take.

I am writing to inform you that we have one member of the school community who has tested positive for Covid-19. They are a member of our Year 3 Bubble and are recovering well at home.

As soon as we became aware of this positive case, we contacted PHE and the Department for Education for their advice and guidance. PHE has advised us that pupils and staff who have been in very close and prolonged proximity to the individual will need to self-isolate at home until 26th December.

To be clear, this is a single, isolated case, but we are taking the appropriate precautions as advised by the experts.

We are currently contacting all those families directly whose child needs to self-isolate, however **your child is not included in this list.**

We all need to remain highly vigilant however even though the risk to young people is very small. There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of getting ill with Covid-19:

- wash our 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 our hands as soon as we get home
- cover our mouth and nose with a tissue or our sleeve (not our hands) when we cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash our hands afterwards

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

If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste and smell) please do not send them to school, but go to the dedicated NHS 111 Covid website: <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> for details of what you need to do.

It is likely that most schools across the country will have isolated cases of Covid-19 this academic year. We will of course deal with these appropriately and always follow the experts' advice. With the social distancing procedures that we have in place, we are confident that it will be possible to ensure that the education of the overwhelming majority of pupils will continue uninterrupted.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Ruth Robinson
Executive Principal