



Monday, 19 October 2020

Further Information – COVID case confirmation

Dear Parent,

Further to our earlier communication on Sunday regarding the positive test at Chesswood Junior School, we would like to thank the vast majority of families that brought their children to school this morning as normal, this was greatly appreciated and has been truly helpful. As you might imagine we have had a very busy day as a result.

We are aware of a small number of families that have significant concerns about the general information that was shared yesterday. This situation has arisen hearing some families need more information to support their decision making process. My leadership team and I have considered those concerns in detail this morning and reflected on individual family circumstances. We will confirm the current threshold guide for our school following any case.

We are currently at:

Stage	Description	Example Actions
3	There has been <u>one</u> positive case of a child or member of staff attending Chesswood Junior School within the past 14 days. The individual is required to isolate for at least 10 days and close contacts in school are required to isolate for 14 days and undertake a test.	A risk assessment review will be undertaken, control measures will be considered again whether they remain fit for purpose. Further advice will be sought from the local Public Health England team. Considerations for playground management, school assemblies, specialist teaching and cleaning rotas will be reviewed, amongst other things.

We will also provide information in a table to ensure families are clear on the scope of the actions we are recommending. Please review the table below for the current positive case:

Positive case overview

	Classes	Guide
Class	4EV	<p>A person (child or adult) has a confirmed COVID case. We have reviewed the contacts of the positive case and informed families of the direct contacts.</p> <p>A small number of contacts (children and adults) have been asked to isolate until Monday October 26th based on potential contacts on Monday 12th October. At this time, it is not thought there are any other relevant contacts to isolate. Absence will be authorized for children expected to isolate.</p> <p>The remaining children and adults are highly unlikely to have had the required direct contact to isolate. They may have been a contact of a</p>



		<p>contact, however, there is no reason for a contact of a contact to isolate. This explains why family members of those contacts isolating do not need to isolate themselves (unless anyone develops any one symptom).</p> <p>As a result the remaining children and adults that have not been contacted directly should continue to attend school unless they are not well enough to do so.</p> <p>If there are specific exceptional circumstances i.e. you live with someone that is extremely clinically vulnerable; you are advised to contact an appropriate health care professional to share the current circumstances and get direction from them as we are unable to provide more specific information.</p> <p>If you would like to explore your options regarding school attendance and have specific exceptional circumstances that apply you should email head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk.</p>				
Wider Bubble	4DG	<p>No specific action for any child or adult</p> <p>ALL children within this class attend school as normal following the existing precautions when they are well enough to do so. We don't expect to authorize absence for this group of children if they are well enough to attend school.</p> <p>If a family believes there are exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration regarding attendance they should be emailed to head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk</p>				
Wider School	All classes	<p>Continue to attend school as normal following the existing precautions when they are well enough to do so. We don't expect to authorize absence for this group of children if they are well enough to attend school.</p> <p>If a family believes there are exceptional circumstances that should be taken into consideration regarding attendance they should be emailed to head@chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk</p>				
Guide	Fully Open		Partially Closed		Fully Closed	
Current Class Status						
Year 3	3HG	3LB	3PB	3DH	3ML	
Year 4	4OM	4JD	4EV	4CR	4DG	
Year 5	5HH	5AL	5KM	5AY	5EM	5JH
Year 6	6BP	6MH	6SJ	6RW	6EW	6EP

There are some principles that should now be established when managing a positive case or cases between home and school:

- We would not compromise school opening for a wider group of children or staff, therefore ALL parents should hold genuine confidence that ALL children and adults that need to isolate, will isolate. That will leave a remaining group of children that DO NOT need to isolate and should attend school.
- Where there is uncertainty regarding contacts we will be cautious and will close down a



class if the tracing evidence warrants it. If it doesn't, as in the recent case, we will isolate the appropriate number of individuals that have had contact – partially closing a class.

- If there is more than one case in a class, the whole class will close with immediate effect. We will then consider the contacts within the wider bubble to determine whether further children should isolate. This will be done in partnership with external agencies including the Depart for Education and Public Health England representatives.
- This is a matter of trust, professional judgement and personal judgment – ultimately parents will need to trust that school leaders will undertake their work seriously and diligently in everyone's best interests.
- Please understand that careless talk, speculation and second guessing regarding positive cases will lead to significant additional work for school staff already breaking under the strain of the current circumstances and will also, when placed on social media, lead to unnecessary worry and anxiety at a time when families need less.
- As many understand, we are working with limited resources to address a complex and challenging situation, above and beyond the normal work that is typically under resourced. Despite those challenges we actively want families to contact us immediately, if you believe
 - we have overlooked something and you have reasonable evidence that is the case
 - you have additional information that could reasonably support a review of the current decisions that have been made
 - you have exceptional circumstances that affect your family and need to be considered in more depth between home and school e.g. living with a person (adult or child) that is extremely clinically vulnerable
- Otherwise we would politely ask families to avoid seeking further information regarding any confirmed case. Please help us help the whole of our very diverse school community navigate through these challenging times in the most effective way possible.

Yours sincerely,