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## “Valuing every achievement”

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Families,

I hope you are all well, or getting better.

I wanted to offer a further update to my letter on Monday as we have had a really difficult week in school.

As I said previously, despite there being a lifting of restrictions related to COVID, COVID has not gone. It is still very present and particularly in school (and other schools I know of) ripping through classes. This week we have a total of nearly 30 cases across the school that includes both staff and children. We have not seen numbers like this for months.

Just for your information, and to understand why I am asking for tests, the numbers have risen significantly;

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiOTc3MDU3MjAtM2VjNy00NmVjLWFKZGZlZDlyNmUzZTg2NDYwliwidCI6ImFjZjQxODg3LWJkMzctNDVhMy05ZTY1LTQ3Y2RINDhkYzg1YSIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSection7933c8e59bfa92dd663e> this gives a picture of numbers across the town and Worcestershire.

We are also finding that the LFTs are not being as effective as PCRs at the moment too. We have several cases where LFTs are negative and PCRs are returning as positive.

We are seeing lots of different presentations for positive cases. Some have a slight headache, some have a temperature, some have had the cough, some runny noses and some sore throats and tiredness, and a few with no symptoms at all.

The quickest way to get your results from a PCR is to visit a test centre. Whilst I appreciate it's difficult to get some of our children there, the results are coming back within 24 hours, which means it either rules it out quicker or you know sooner.



We are having to be so careful again. There was a point at the start of the week where 3 classes were at risk of having to be shut. Fortunately, we were able to safely keep them open, but this is why the testing is so important when we ask for it.

I appreciate it is inconvenient, and disruptive, but a couple of our children have had to have hospital treatment this time around and we have to do everything we possibly can to prevent this. Staff who have had 3 jabs and COVID within the past few months are still catching this virus and having it quite badly. There are no rules with COVID; people vaccinated, boosted and recently infected are catching it.

We hope to try to keep the numbers down for the forthcoming weeks.

Please continue to help us by using the LFTs daily, and if your child has any of the symptoms mentioned, please consider getting them a PCR so we can prevent spread amongst pupils and staff.

Many thanks as always for your support

Tracey

