

Advice from Public Health England re. the Delta Variant

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, we had another positive case of coronavirus in a pupil at our school today. This coincides with a call that I took from the Health Protection Agency – Public Health England yesterday, to advise me that there is a particularly virulent strain of coronavirus which is prevalent locally at the moment, particularly within schools and childcare facilities. At the time that I spoke to them, we had no cases, but of course things changed today.

PHE have told me to inform you to please be vigilant and look out for symptoms of coronavirus, but particularly a temperature, which is how children are currently presenting, and that **ALL** possible symptomatic cases must go for a PCR test. I am aware of multiple cases in some classes in local schools, and we don't want to find ourselves in that situation, so please do follow this advice, and please do not send in your child to school if you have any suspicion that they may be unwell – we need to preserve the education of the children at Reculver, and the health of our families, so take them for a test instead.

On that subject, I am aware that many of you are feeling very fed up at the children once again having to isolate, as we are too. Many of us are also parents, and find ourselves in exactly the same situation with our own children at schools around the district. However, we have to follow advice given by the DFE and PHE, which is that all possible close contacts need to self-isolate when a positive case in that class/bubble happens. With the virulence of this strain, it's vital that we follow this and that the children do isolate until they are allowed to return to school.

This is current government policy. We have to follow it. I would suggest that if you are not happy with this policy and its impact, you do as I am and write to your local MP about the effect that this policy of self-isolation for close contacts is having on childrens' education and mental wellbeing. Please do this – which may make a difference – rather than ranting to the staff at school or on social media, where we cannot make a difference or change policy but instead where people doing a difficult enough job may be upset or the school may be made to look in a bad light for something that is not its fault at all.

Finally, PHE said to me that the key to getting out of this situation is vaccination, so please do get your vaccine if you have not had it including second vaccines, and encourage others to do the same. However, all the time children are unvaccinated, we do have to follow current guidelines as they stand and as are dictated to us.

Thank you to all our school community for your support in these continuing difficult times.



Mrs J Ashley-Jones - Executive Headteacher