

# Faringdon Infant School

Part of the Faringdon Learning Trust

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*Future of Faringdon; Including all; Supporting everyone to grow*

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Coronavirus cases in the local community

We are obviously aware that there are an increasing number of cases of COVID 19 in the local community, at Faringdon Community College and, in particular at Faringdon Junior School, where Year Four have been forced to close to prevent further spread. At this stage, the only case we have at the Infant School is one member of staff who was already self-isolating due to possible exposure and has not been in school since before half term. Therefore, other than their absence from school, this has not affected our children or other staff.

We are however, aware of the heightened risk with cases continuing to rise and with the close connections between the schools here. We can assure you that we are continuing to work tightly within our risk assessment and are following all DFE and Public Health Guidance. Should our situation change, we will keep you informed immediately.

What you need to know:

- If you have a child or household member who is having to self-isolate because they are in the Year Four group at Faringdon Junior School (or as advised by another setting, work place or the NHS App), the rest of your family does not have to self-isolate **UNLESS** your child begins to show symptoms or you are awaiting a test outcome. If the isolating child is well, then siblings and parents can continue to attend work and school. Therefore, children at our school who have a year four sibling, should continue to attend unless you feel that anyone in the household develops symptoms, or you are advised otherwise by public health or NHS.
- If you are a parent of a year four child and are bringing your Infant School child to school, you must not bring the self-isolating child with you to and from school as they should not be having any contact with other people. If this is causing you difficulties, please contact the school office.
- Please continue to support us with our efforts to contain the virus, by following the rules of lockdown. In school, children are not able to social distance within their class bubble, but they do not mix with any other bubble for lesson time, break time, lunch time or any other point in the day. Within their class bubble, we maintain regular hand hygiene and continue to talk to the children about respiratory hygiene (managing their coughs and sneezes!). We have modified or stopped some activities such as singing and most food preparation, have reorganised classrooms to avoid children being opposite one another for prolonged periods and have separate resources for each class, which are cleaned daily. This means that we are doing everything that we can to ensure that

any cases here remain as contained as possible. We really urge you to help us maintain this when children leave school by keeping them with you and not allowing them to mix with other bubbles and households as soon as they leave the class, and by reinforcing the messages about hand and respiratory hygiene.

- Like you, many of the staff are very anxious about the current situation. Some staff have their own health vulnerabilities and many live with and care for family who are very vulnerable. I am incredibly grateful to them for their stoic efforts and constant hard work to ensure that children continue to have a positive experience of school. Please show them, and one another, your support, kindness and respect at this worrying time, and remember that it is challenging every one of us.

We celebrated World Science Day yesterday and reminded children of the wonder of science as well as reinforcing messages about germs and how they spread or can be stopped. The children's faces were filled with awe and wonder of witnessing the experiments taking place, asking questions and learning new information. This is how school should be! Let us hope that some of our young scientists are part of future efforts to keep our world healthy and safe from harm.

Take care and Stay Safe,

*Mrs Robins and the FIS Team*