

# LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Dear Parents,

You will no doubt be aware that we are experiencing an increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 across the school. As we had expected, the virus has spread across classes as a result of sibling links. We currently have children absent from every class, either as the result of a confirmed positive PCR result, or whilst people are waiting for the results to come through. We actually only had 11 children in Year 6 today.

We are continuing to work closely with Public Health England and the Local Health Protection Team. At this stage, we are expected to remain open and to continue to provide onsite education for all pupils who are COVID free.

I must warn you, however, that the virus is now spreading to staff. As a result, there is a possibility that some classes may need to close and revert to remote education in the coming days if we are unable to safely staff the school. We are doing all we can to limit staff interaction and to ensure that staff remain with a particular class of children, but this obviously means that we have less flexibility with regard to cover in the case of staff absence. Closure of classes would naturally be the last resort, but I feel it is only fair to warn you of the possibility at this time.

As you know, we have maintained our separate break and lunchtimes throughout the course of this term, and have not reintroduced whole school activities such as worship in the hall yet. Children and staff regularly wash and sanitise their hands, and we are cleaning key touch points frequently throughout the course of the day, before undertaking deeper cleans at the end of the day.

I would really appreciate your support now to avoid a situation in which I have to send classes home. Please think carefully about mixing with other families outside of school

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at this time, and the implications that this could have, both on the school as a whole, and your own children and families in particular.

I would also be grateful if you would continue to test yourselves, and your children, regularly. Please do not send your children to school if they are unwell. There appears to be a noticeable link between confirmed COVID-19 cases and cold symptoms, so please do err on the side of caution and book a PCR test just to make sure.

I desperately do not want to close classes and revert to remote education, but if I am unable to safely staff each class, I am afraid I will have no alternative. Please be assured that we will do all we can to avoid this, and would really appreciate your support in our endeavours.

Thank you for your support and understanding – it is very much appreciated. I am well aware of the strain that this situation is placing on families, especially as a result of the uncertainty at this time, and am genuinely sorry that we are in this situation. A number of you have expressed the view that the “old system” of closing bubbles in the case of a positive test result was much less disruptive and easier to manage – I have to say that I personally agree with you! Unfortunately, our current position in the Government’s recovery plan does not permit this, and we must all work together to manage the situation as best we can.

Kind regards

Tina Holditch  
Headteacher