

11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID Information

May we first begin by thanking you for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

At Tonge Moor Primary Academy, the safety and well-being of our pupils, their families and the staff are paramount. As detailed in our COVID risk assessment, which can be found on the school website, a large number of procedures are in place to ensure this. The school has been praised by the Bolton Council COVID response team for our thorough risk assessment and the steps we have taken to ensure that bubbles remain in classes rather than whole year groups.

When the school receives confirmation of a positive case, the senior management team works closely with Greater Manchester Contact Tracing Department, Bolton Council COVID response team, Public Health England and the Department for Education, to identify 'contacts' who are asked to isolate. Staff are asked the questions below. These questions apply to 48 hours before the onset of symptoms or 48 hours before testing positive if the person is asymptomatic. The questions and the time frames are provided by the Greater Manchester Contact Tracing Department.

The contact tracing questions we must ask staff are:

- Have you been coughed on by the positive case?
- Have you had a face-to-face conversation within one metre with the positive case?
- Have you had unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact with the positive case?
- Have you travelled in a small vehicle with the positive case?
- Have you had any contact within one metre for one minute with the positive case?
- Have you had contact less than two metres for more than 15 minutes with the positive case?

As you can appreciate, this process can sometimes be lengthy. However, we aim to provide parents with as much notice as possible of a bubble closure. As detailed in the school risk assessment, staff must keep two metres apart where possible and unnecessary contact with pupils avoided. This means that when a positive case is confirmed within the school, not all staff within the class bubble will need to isolate and can therefore continue to work in school.

Head of School: Mrs N. Whittaker

Tonge Moor Primary Academy, Brierwood, Bolton, BL2 2PF

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As detailed in the Government guidelines, only the individual having contact with a positive case needs to isolate and not the whole household. This means that siblings can continue to attend school as normal. If a member of the household develops symptoms or tests positive, this is when the whole household (including siblings) must self-isolate.

If you have queries relating to this or any question, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N Whittaker
Head of School

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