



Ryders Green Primary School

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♦ Ba (Hons) ♦ QTS ♦ Pg Cert ♦ AST

Our Ref: LB/eb

Date: 20th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have seen my letter and stories online about the confirmation that two pupils were found to be positive with the Indian variant of Covid-19.

I want to reassure all parents the school has followed all the necessary procedures and the children had not been in contact with pupils or staff in the time leading up to when they tested positive for Covid-19.

The family were already in isolation when the children tested positive.

Although the positive result is made available very quickly after a Covid-19 test, sequencing to determine the variant, in this case, the variant first discovered in India, can take a few weeks which explains the delay in getting this information to you.

As soon as we were made aware we acted accordingly, liaised with Sandwell Council and Public Health England and are now carrying out further testing with the two year groups and 10 members of staff only as a precaution.

We have received some negative feedback online over the last 24 hours which is unhelpful and not in-keeping with our school ethos.

We have received much support from our school community through this really challenging time and this is a real testament to parents doing the right thing and self-isolating if anyone in the household has symptoms.

Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health in Sandwell has also expressed her thanks to the school:

"I'd like to thank the Ryders Green team for their prompt and robust response to the cases of coronavirus in the school when they were first tested. Thanks to their efforts, the risk of further transmission was minimised.

"Now that the subsequent 'sequencing' results have shown that the cases were the Indian new variant of the virus, their efforts to support further testing will help generate new information that will help in the overall response.

I hope you continue to support us as we continue to do what is best to keep children safe in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Blackmore
Head Teacher