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24 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 cases at St Pius X Catholic Primary School, Barrow-in-Furness

I am writing to you in relation to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Cumbria County Council is aware that a number of children and staff at St Pius X Catholic Primary School are currently self-isolating because they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone else who has tested positive.

The positive cases are linked to community transmission outside of the school setting. The Public Health team has been working very closely with the school and I can confirm that they are following all the relevant public health advice and are working hard to protect the wellbeing of staff, pupils and their families.

The public health team monitor all schools affected by COVID-19 and review our advice to them daily. Some of the children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 at St Pius X Catholic Primary School have not had clear COVID-19 symptoms (or have developed them later in their illness). **In consideration of this, I recommend that if your child has any symptoms you are concerned about over the next four weeks, seek advice from your school and consider getting your child tested.**

How do I arrange testing for my child?

Testing can be arranged via the national portal: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or if you do not have internet access, by calling 119.

When booking online, if your child does not have one of the three main COVID-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, high temperature or change to/loss of sense of taste and smell), tick the option described below:

- Why are you asking for a test? - tick the option that says 'My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms'

If you have a child who is already self-isolating because they are a positive case, or because they have been identified as a close contact of a positive case, they do not need to get tested (unless they develop symptoms).

If you are getting your child tested, please ensure the household isolates until the outcome of the test is known. Please let the school know the outcome of any test.

Also, now we are seeing more cases of COVID-19 in schools across Cumbria, it is important that we all continue to follow the advice to protect ourselves and others against COVID-19, including:

- Wherever possible, maintain 2 metres distance from people outside your household
- Wash your hands regularly
- Use face coverings where appropriate
- Stay at home when advised to do so (especially if you test positive or are told to stay at home because you are a close contact).

Thank you for your support in helping to control the spread of COVID-19.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. King'.

Claire King
Consultant in Public Health
Cumbria County Council