

Dear parents,

Throughout the term, we have occasionally written to all parents to update you on aspects of our Covid response. These updates follow communication with any parents of children directly impacted by any situation, and aim to make sure there is transparency and clarity about our response so that you can be assured that the school is doing all it can to keep the community safe.

This letter is to inform you of an incident relating to Covid-19 which has impacted 17 pupils in Year 1.

On Tuesday 3rd November we were visited by 2 nurses from the NHS School Health Service who conducted hearing and vision testing on specific pupils, where this had been notified to parents previously by the NHS. These nurses conducted 17 screening tests for Year 1s. These are important tests because they can pick up important issues surrounding pupils hearing or sight which need to be assessed. These tests have been happening in local primary schools and is a statutory provision. More information is available [here](#). These specific tests were delayed from Reception when they normally happen due to school closure last year. Although the screening of children for height and weight measurements have been suspended at the current time, the screening for sight and hearing is judged to be essential.

On Friday 6th November we were informed that one of the nurses had received a positive test result having developed symptoms on Wednesday 4th November (the day after the screening checks). The visit on Tuesday is therefore within the infectious period for this person. The school's risk assessment was in place but was also supported by the risk assessment of the NHS School Health Service which includes protocols designed to ensure that the process (which lasted between 5 and 10 minutes per pupil) was as safe as possible. These included:

- Wearing masks and visors throughout the screening tests
- Maintaining distance whenever possible
- Wiping down all surfaces with appropriate products between every test

Given the control measures in place and the short period of time the pupils were in the screening test, the exposure risk is reduced. However, having taken advice from Public Health England and Ark Schools, we believe the pupils did meet the Public Health England definition of direct close contact and we have decided that the pupils who were in contact should be isolated for 14 days from the contact incident. This means they will return to school on Wednesday 18th November. There were no staff member who was in contact with the nurses.

As confirmed by Public Health England, only the pupils who were in contact with the nurse will isolate, **no other children in the year group should isolate**. This

follows the government guidance that only those in direct contact with a case should be isolated.

In the meantime, staff are available should you have any questions or concerns and can be reached through parents@kingsolomonacademy.org. We look forward to speaking to the 17 parents on the phone on Monday and seeing everyone else at the entrance to school at normal time.

As a result of the incident, which also impacted another Westminster school, the School Health service will continue to conduct these visits, but will include further hazard controls to try and further reduce the risk of transmission by wearing aprons and gloves in addition.

As a result of this incident we have reviewed our protocols and risk assessment. As the national restrictions have been established, we will be cancelling all non-essential visitors. Where visitors are judged to be essential, they will not be allowed to be in contact with pupils (they will remain 2m+ away from pupils). If this is not possible, and where the visit is important and contact is required, for example in a health screening visit like the one outlined above, we will explicitly communicate with parents and seek their approval before the contact occurs.

In summary:

- only the 17 pupils in Year 1 that have been contacted must isolate
- their siblings can attend school as normal
- all other year 1 pupils can attend school as normal

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused to the families directly impacted. Thank you for your support in keeping the community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Haimendorf
Principal