



Holyrood Learning Community
St Francis' Primary School
430 Old Rutherglen Rd
Glasgow G5 0PA
Phone 0141 429 3687

Email Headteacher@st-francis-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Acting Head Teacher
Joanne Martin

Monday 21 September 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

I wish to sincerely thank you all for your support over the last few, very difficult and anxious days as we deal with the current COVID19 situation in our school.

Firstly, I would like to address the inaccuracies in the figures of positive COVID19 cases being reported in the local community and media over the last couple of days. I am concerned at the level of upset that this has been causing our school community.

Previously, I said that we would not be discussing the individual health of our staff and children. However, I feel that we are being left with no option as the numbers reported have been inaccurate and have been causing anxiety which is unhelpful and distressing.

The view seems to be that as a school, we are trying to cover up or hide figures as part of a 'conspiracy' which is absolutely not the case. We simply want to protect our children and colleagues' right to privacy as I am sure you will all appreciate.

I also want to reassure you that all decisions are being taken in consultation with Public Health – not by me. Public Health have confirmed that at this time there is no need to close the school. However, this will be monitored and we will continue to take the advice of experts on this and keep our families updated of any new information.

As of today we have 3 classes who are self-isolating because they have been identified as close contacts to a positive case. In total and over the last two weeks since we contacted you, we have had 10 staff that have tested positive and 6 children. This has resulted in 102 children and 14 staff being required to self-isolate as a precaution. As before, I know that you will join me in sending our staff and children our best wishes. I am however, delighted that we are already welcoming staff back this week.

I have been in regular communication with Russell Watters, Chair of St Francis' Parent Council. He would like to share the following comments with you:

"We on the Parent Council have faith in our Management Team and know how hard they have worked on this".

"We will continue to work with the school to ensure that all information that can be made public will be made public, to address parents and carers concerns".

"But at this difficult time, our only reliable information source should be Public Health Scotland and the school itself, not gossip and misreporting in the press."

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your support and patience in this difficult situation. It is more vital than ever that we stay strong as a school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office if you have any additional concerns and I will do my very best to answer these.

Kind regards,

Joanne Martin