



Colkirk C of E Primary Academy, Little Snoring Community Primary Academy, Sculthorpe C of E Primary Academy & West Raynham C of E Primary Academy



Executive Headteacher: Mr Christopher J Allen

Have Faith - Flourish - Fly High



20 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I understand several parents have raised concern as I was at Sculthorpe yesterday after being at Colkirk on Wednesday due to a positive case of covid-19 in the school. Firstly I want to reassure you that no guidance, rules or regulations have been broken. My day at Sculthorpe yesterday was perfectly correct and that I acted on the advice of Public Health England.

The case at Colkirk is a child in the Key Stage 2 Bubble, they contracted the virus through an asymptomatic relative who had been routinely tested as part of their care job. As soon as the relative had a positive result the child and family isolated (Friday 13 November), the child then developed symptoms and was tested for covid and a positive result confirmed late Tuesday evening.

The child has not been in Colkirk since 13 November. Guidance from Public Health England clearly stated that anyone in contact with the child 48 hours prior to first symptoms (Saturday 14 November) had to isolate. I have not had contact with the child or the class since 3 November. No children in the bubble entered school on Wednesday of this week as it was closed before school started. My sole purpose on Wednesday was to work through, with the Head of School (who also has not had contact with the child for more than 72 hours prior to symptoms, the co-ordination of the closure of the bubble – in such a situation we have to notify Public Health England, Norfolk Outbreak Management Team, our academy trust and Norfolk County Council. This took all day.

Yesterday I was at Sculthorpe because it was my scheduled day and there was NO risk of me being in contact with the infection. Our covid risk assessment for each school follows the correct guidance issued by our academy trust, Norfolk County Council and Public Health England. It allows for staff to travel between bubbles in a safe covid way, if not schools would not be able to function.

I did visit the classrooms yesterday to undertake planned monitoring agreed with staff. I had a face shield with me in case I needed to work in close proximity to children (under 2m) but this was not required as I sat at a distance of at least 3-5m in each room from children. The purpose of this monitoring is to check on the well-being of the children and staff and to ensure they are okay. I spent less than 15 minutes in each room – guidance states clearly that contracting the virus requires close proximity (less than 2m) for more than 15 minutes.

We are working incredibly hard to ensure staff and pupils remain safe in school at the extremely challenging time. We have been very grateful for the majority of our parents being supportive in this time and working with us.

Once again I would like to stress that no guidance or regulations have been broken and that all advice has been followed. I understand your concerns but please check with us if you hear anything and do not assume what you hear out of school is correct, we would not put anyone at risk including ourselves. We expect those parents who have kept their children away from school to return them on Monday as we do not need to unnecessarily disrupt their education further.

Yours Sincerely,

Christopher J Allen
Executive Head