

16.12.20

**Re: Confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in school**

Dear Parents/Carers,

There has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 at The Robert Fitzroy Academy.

I understand that this may be upsetting and frustrating news for you to receive. Our staff and children have done all that they have been asked; however this virus is such that we have needed to take further action to stop the spread. The individual is self-isolating at home, as per government advice. They have since accessed a test and have tested positive.

We have taken the initial decision to close the year group bubble from **this afternoon**. The school has contacted the dedicated helpline at the Department for Education immediately this morning and worked in close collaboration with our Reach2 Academy Trust to find a suitable route forward. The helpline's team have conducted a rapid investigation to confirm who the individual was in close contact with during the period they were infectious. This helpline has provided us with greater advice on which individuals need to be sent home to self-isolate.

**A close contact can be:**

- face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre
- Been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact.
- Been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day).

**Following advice, these actions have been agreed:**

- Due to Y2 pupils being in a year group bubble, and close contact being identified with the specific individual, the decision has been taken to close the bubble for the remainder of the term.
- Due to the individual with the positive test result not being in school since the symptoms have developed, Y2 pupils *do need* to self-isolate during this period until Monday **21<sup>st</sup> December**.
- Within the government guidance and further advice we have received, pupils, *do need* to self-isolate during this period; however, do note parents and carers and siblings *do not* need to take this course of action unless symptoms become apparent.

Our Y2 children have made a great start to this very unusual school year and it is a shame that they are not able to attend school for the final few days. It is now our priority for their learning to

continue. Therefore, we will be in further communication later today to set out the menu of home – learning on offer.

**Please contact the school to let us know if your child develops any symptoms while they are self-isolating.**

If any further cases of coronavirus are confirmed, the school will work with Public Health England's local health protection team to ensure the appropriate actions are taken. This may include more pupils and staff being sent home to self-isolate. You will be kept fully informed of any developments.

I understand that you may have questions about the content of this letter, so please get in touch with the school to discuss any concerns.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing the individual a safe recovery.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Clark', with a horizontal line underneath.

Matthew Clark  
Headteacher