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24 January 2022.

POSITIVE CASES OF COVID.

Dear Parents

You will be aware there has been a steep increase in Covid-19 case numbers in the community. Given this dramatic increase, it was expected that schools would also see increased numbers of staff and pupils testing positive.

We have had 3 classes with a slightly higher number of cases and PHA have asked that every child in those clusters is tested, especially those still in school, as they may be carrying the virus but not showing any symptoms. These classes have already been notified through Seesaw.

If you're not already doing so, PHA advise that you carry out twice-weekly lateral flow testing (for those over 5 years of age) so that such cases can be picked up before children come to school and it spreads rapidly to other pupils and staff.

This is the first that so many of our staff have caught Covid-19 and some are extremely ill with it. At the minute, I am able to cover classes by using learning support teachers, a retired teacher and the few substitutes that can be found but as I've nearly 50% of staff off, I may not be able to continue covering all classes safely.

A number of schools have had to move to remote learning for a few days and this may become a possibility should this spread further amongst staff, but this will always be a very last resort.

We must work together to prevent this, so please do not send your child to school if they display any symptoms whatsoever. Testing has shown that a number of children have been positive and attended school, yet displayed no symptoms, and the virus has spread quickly around the class as a result.

We are at a critical time with this virus and probably at our worst in the two years of Covid-19, so I ask you to continue helping us in taking every precaution to get us safely through the next few weeks.

Thank you for patience and understanding and please be assured that every mitigation possible is in place to keep the children and staff of Victoria Park safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Gourley.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY – BELFAST REGION

