



# Hillstone News

## Coronavirus Cases

Having done so well initially, we currently have 5 bubbles closed. They are largely individual cases though in each of the classes. This is somewhat reassuring as it means that the transmission is not happening within our school. Each year group remains separate but the two classes within a year group do have playtimes and lunchtimes together.

It is crucial that if a child has been asked to self-isolate, they do not go out at all for 14 days, just in case they have become infected. I know this is presenting many of you with problems regarding getting siblings to school. I would make a plea for parents to help each other. If you are going past a house where you know a sibling of a child who is self-isolating who is in the same year group as your child, if you are able to bring them, it would mean them missing as little as school as possible.

Even when not self-isolating it is still important to keep out of each other's house. A number of children have told us they have been playing at a friends or a cousins. This will increase the risk of the virus spreading.

Now we have promising news of a vaccine, I am very optimistic for the year ahead—just stick with it for a few more months.

If your child is self-isolating, they must access the virtual school. In summer, when children could not come to school, the virtual school felt like a nice optional extra—this has now changed. The government are very concerned by the amount of learning that is being missed and it is now an expectation that all children will continue to learn from home.

We are very proud of virtual school, but currently only about 50% of children who are self-isolating are accessing it.

Please call us if you are having any problems with any issues around accessing virtual school, bringing siblings to school, collecting free school meal hampers or anything else. We will endeavour to help where we can.

# HILLSTONE STARS

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