

Dear Parents,

As promised, here is an update on our situation following the increase in COVID19 cases in our region. Following advice from the Local Authority, **we will be keeping things as they are until at least the beginning of December** in order to help reduce transmission of COVID19. Although the number of cases is starting to decline, numbers continue to be concerningly high and are above both regional and national averages.

This means that the following control measures will remain in place:

- Any child with any symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, should not come into school and get a PCR test.
- If children are needing paracetamol or Calpol, they should also stay at home until they are better and no longer require the medicine.
- Drop off arrangements remain the same in the morning, only 1 adult to drop off and adults must wear a face covering when leaving vehicles and in the areas around the school, unless they are exempt.
- Children to only bring in from home any essential items: coats, lunchboxes, reading books, homework etc.
- Children will be in two separate bubbles throughout the day: KS1 and KS2. They will have separate playtimes and lunch times.
- There will continue to be increased cleaning with touchpoints cleaned regularly throughout the day and a thorough clean each evening.
- We will not be holding any whole school events for the time being. Assemblies will be held in individual classes.
- At the end of the day, pickup times will remain staggered. **Siblings at 3pm, KS1 at 3.10 and KS2 at 3.15.** Only 1 person to collect and masks are to be worn when leaving vehicles and in the areas around the school, unless you are exempt. Once you have your child, please leave the playground promptly.
- Please maintain social distancing when queuing and waiting to drop off and pick up.
- Brief messages can be given to staff at the gates, anything more detailed or that needs a more individual response must be phoned or emailed into the office.
- **Clubs will resume from Monday 15th November as they are in the same bubbles as the children are in in school.** Choices remain the same as before and there is a new sign up on School Spider.

Testing Recommendations

- a. Household siblings (secondary school age) of confirmed cases are advised to take daily LFD while awaiting their PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless test is positive). This is also advised for primary school aged children but is at the discretion of the parent/guardian.

- b. Given high prevalence it is appropriate to recommend daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace whilst individuals await their PCR results.
- c. Promotion of twice weekly asymptomatic testing.
- d. If unwell, stay at home. If negative for COVID19 individuals should still wait until 24hours post fever to go back into a setting. Colds and other non-COVID19 illnesses are circulating but in the first instance the cardinal symptoms should be treated as possible COVID19 and trigger isolation and testing. This is the case even if others in the setting /group have tested negative for similar symptoms.

Dates for returning to school

Anyone who tests positive for COVID19 should inform us of the test results and must have completed 10 FULL DAYS of isolation before returning to school.

Please appreciate that this is not how we would like to be, but after the last outbreak we hope you will support us in doing everything we can to avoid having to resort again to on-line learning.

Many thanks,

Richard Gibson, Sam Rickaby and Nicky Kelsey