



Thursday 11th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to stop the spread of Covid-19. You may have heard that over the last few days, we have had a very small number of positive cases across our federation. At the moment, these are limited to isolated cases in a couple of classes (not an outbreak) but we must be really vigilant and do our utmost to reduce the risk of spreading.

Thank you to those of you who are carrying our regular lateral flow tests and seeking PCR tests where symptoms have presented or where family members test positive.

KS1 Trip to Newcastle

I have made the disappointing decision to cancel this trip for the time being. With new cases in mind, and in line with clear guidance, it would not be appropriate for children from different classes to spend a prolonged period of time in an enclosed space with each other. It would also be irresponsible to take classes of children into public places whilst we are aware of a heightened risk that some of them may be infected. Staff are busy rescheduling the trip for the spring time.

In the meantime, parents will be refunded.

Celebration Assemblies

These will be closed to visitors for the remainder of this term, and will take place in taught schools so that children from each school are not mixing indoors. We have made an early decision at this stage for two main reasons:

- The incubation period for Covid can be up to 14 days so we need to be looking well ahead.
- Reorganising transport at short notice is a huge job and better for our whole team, as well as children and families, if we can have some stability for a few weeks.

We will of course continue with all the awards and celebrations and we hope you understand our decision.

Panto

In order to avoid mixing classes in enclosed spaces for a prolonged amount of time, we have also made the decision to cancel our trip to the panto at The Georgian Theatre.

Clubs

Outdoor sports clubs will still go ahead at the moment but this will be re-assessed on a daily basis.

Christmas Productions

In anticipation of restrictions being reintroduced due to Covid, we have planned the following dates for Christmas productions:

- For the children taught at Askrigg: Wednesday 8th December, 6:00pm
- For the children taught at West Burton: Thursday 9th December, 6:00pm
- For the children taught at Bainbridge; Monday 13th December, 1:30pm

It now seems unlikely that we will be able to invite parents to these productions but will continue to re-evaluate the situation. In the event that we cannot open our productions to parents, we will bring the Askrigg and West Burton ones into the school day and will make arrangements to record and/or live stream the productions for your enjoyment. In the meantime, your child's teachers may be in touch with more details about the individual productions.

Further Measures

- Staff continue with lateral flow tests at least twice weekly
- Visitors are kept to a minimum – essential visits only
- All members of staff will wear masks on transport
- We will open windows and ensure maximum ventilation indoors
- We will encourage distancing where possible
- We will encourage a rigorous hand-washing regime and wipe down surface with antibacterial wipes
- In accordance with our remote learning policy, we will provide work for any children isolating at home

What you can do to help

We encourage you to carry out regular lateral flow tests which are freely available. We also have plenty in school if you run short or need some urgently. Please don't hesitate to ask.

- If your child develops symptoms* OR tests positive on a lateral flow test: keep them off school; book a PCR test at your earliest convenience; let us know as soon as possible. At this point, siblings may continue to attend school.
- If your child's PCR test comes back negative: (s)he can return to school.
- If your child's PCR test comes back positive:
 - (S)he must isolate for 10 days: this includes the day your symptoms started (or the test date if you have no symptoms) and the next 10 full days. A learning package will be provided by school.
 - Siblings and family members in the same household must get a PCR test and isolate until the test results come through.

**Recognised Covid symptoms, according to the NHS:*

- *a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)*
- *a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)*
- *a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal*

We continue to work with our Local Authority and Public Health England and will assess our procedures dynamically. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

I know that many of these measures come as a disappointment. We share this feeling, but hope that you understand and are able to support us in our efforts to keep our children, families, and staff safe, especially in the lead-up to Christmas.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Charlotte Harper
Headteacher