



Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support during the first three of weeks of term. All of our pupils have settled back into school and made a very positive start to their learning. We are pleased we have been able to welcome specialist teachers into school to lead Dance and Sports sessions.

Unfortunately, we have had to make some difficult decisions to move to home learning for four classes, where the impact of COVID-19 on staffing has prevented us from providing safe and effective education in school.

We know the best place for our pupils to learn is in school and we recognise the negative impact that changes to routines have for many of our pupils. We will only move to home learning when it is unavoidable. Any change to provision will be for the shortest possible time and for as few pupils as possible.

This week there have been 15 staff members absent from school and 25 pupils absent due to COVID-19 across several classes. We will continue to inform parents/carers when there is a positive COVID-19 case in their child's class.

We can receive notifications of staff absence at any time and we may need to inform you of a move to home learning at short notice, so please check your emails regularly. We recognise the inconvenience this can cause and would ask for your support and cooperation with any such request. The safety of our pupils and staff is our first priority.

Please remain vigilant for the main symptoms of COVID-19 - a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change to, your child's normal sense of taste or smell. Please continue to test secondary pupils twice weekly with an LFD test. In several cases recently, pupils have complained of feeling generally unwell (e.g. headache and/or tiredness), tested negative on a LFD test and then subsequently tested positive. To help keep everyone safe, we may advise you to carry out daily LFD tests if there are a number of positive cases in your child's class.

Please keep your child at home if he/she shows any symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive on a lateral flow test.

Pupils with COVID-19 can now end their self-isolation after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6. Pupils who are still positive on their LFD tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.

Interim Co-Headteachers: Lisa Frankland and Paul James

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Finally, the Department of Education has announced changes to the guidance for schools this week, but in light of the high number of cases we have seen in school, we will continue with our current arrangements, with staff and secondary pupils wearing face coverings in school, where appropriate. We would appreciate your support in explaining this decision to your child.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or feedback.

Yours sincerely

Lisa J Frankland *Paul James*

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