

Tuesday 19 January 2021

COVID-19 Update



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

Please see below various updates in regards our ongoing response to the pandemic and current lockdown.

Pupils learning from home

I would like to say a huge well done to all the parents & carers that are supporting their children with their home learning, you are doing a remarkable job! We appreciate that it is not easy, but please rest assured we are here to help in any way we can.

It also important to point out, that you are under no pressure to do all the activities and to participate in all online learning events, we appreciate how challenging it can be, especially for those parents/carers that are working from home and have more than one child learning from home, our message is simple **“Do the best you can when you can”**.

Pupils accessing onsite learning

We have been able to provide places to all children of critical workers and those pupils who have a social worker that have requested a place, as a result we have approx. 70 pupils accessing school each day, which is a 10% increase on the previous week. It is so reassuring to know that over 100 of our pupils are at home and at their safest.

Risk Assessment

As we did back in June, we have risk assessed the number of pupils who can safely access each bubble, and the maximum number of pupils per bubble per day will be six.

Number of pupils requiring places was initially low, however demand for places is increasing with critical worker parents under increased pressure to return to work and where we were previously able to offer up to 5-day onsite provision for the children of critical workers and those with social workers, we may no longer be able to offer full-time provision and will need to implement a rota.

There are currently only 2 classes this affects, and a member of the Pupil & Family Support Team will be in touch to discuss this with the parents this involves.

All other classes are currently below this number, however should the number go above six a rota will be introduced, and the children will have a timetable of onsite & offsite learning.



Headteacher: Mr Kieran Welsh Harrington Road, Chorley, PR7 1JZ. **Tel:** 01257 262227

Email: head@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk **Website:** www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk



Criteria for an onsite learning place

At present our criteria remains the same, children of critical workers and those that have social workers.

We do however recognise that there are many other factors which could increase a child's vulnerability and require them to need time onsite.

This will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Pupil & Family Support Team. If you would like to discuss your situation, or feel your child is at risk, please contact your child's class teacher.

Option for Secondary age pupils to have weekly testing

In line with Government guidance all staff are offered weekly testing, with over 85% of the staff team participating. At our Governors meeting last week it was agreed that we would offer our secondary age pupils the opportunity to engage in weekly testing too. If you would like your child to take part in our weekly testing programme, please complete the online [CONSENT FORM](#) by the end of the day on Thursday, this will enable us to put together a timetable on Friday and commence the testing from Monday 25 January.

7 Day Serial Testing

The Government have put forward an alternative to the 10-day self-isolation period, proposing that those who have been a close contact of a confirmed case, could be offered 7-day serial testing. After much discussion at our recent governors meeting, it was unanimously decided that we **will not** be offering the serial testing to staff or pupils at our school, as it was not felt to be a safe enough alternative to the self-isolation.

Parent & Carer Chill & Chat Sessions

Starting next week, will be the first of our half-termly online 'Chill & Chat' sessions via TEAMS for parents & carers to have a forum to get informal advice and support from school and each other. The focus of the first session is 'Supporting learning and well-being at home'. The plan is for the session to be parent led with possible discussions being around engaging pupils to learn at home and how to support pupil well-being whilst at home. The Chill and Chat session will be on Tuesday 26th January at 10.30-11.30am, it is a drop-in session so parents do not have to join for the whole meeting but can if they wish. Mrs Clarke has put further information in a Blog on the school website. Link to Blog below.

<https://www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk/blog/2021-01-18-14-07-48-chill-chat-tuesday-26th-january>

Class teachers will be sharing the link to join the session later this week.



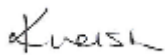


Parent & Carer Mental Health Support

We recognise the immense stress and strain the current pandemic and lockdown could be causing you and would like to offer you the opportunity to access an online or telephone 1:1 session with our school counsellor Ms Jacqueline Branfield. She will be available each Thursday, to book a session or find out more, please contact Miss Karen Wells, Deputy Head wellsk@astleypark.sch.uk or Mrs Nicola Patterson, Parent & Carer Support Manager pattersonn@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk.

I will write with a further update next week.

Take Care & Keep Safe 



Mr Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

