

Tuesday 04 January 2022

Welcome Back Letter



Dear Parents & Carers,

Happy New Year to you all, I hope this letter finds you all safe and well and you were able to enjoy the festive season and spend some time with family and friends.

The number of Covid cases reached an all-time high over the break and locally the cases are extremely high.

We have had a significant number of staff test positive over the festive period, which given how virulent the Omicron variant is, was not a surprise.

Staff absence is likely to be a serious and ongoing challenge over the next few weeks and months. We have recently recruited several new staff members which will go some way to alleviating some of the challenges, however with the number of cases it is highly likely that we may need to close classes due to being unable to maintain the health and safety of the pupils. This will only ever be as a last resort and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Current Covid Measures

- All staff and secondary age pupils to continue wearing face-coverings when arriving, leaving, and moving around the school site, with the option to wear them in class if they choose to.
- All staff engage in twice weekly testing for the foreseeable future.
- All staff who are identified as a close contact will seek a PCR and engage in daily testing for 7 days.
- All secondary age pupils to continue with twice weekly testing for the foreseeable future.
- All pupils who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case are strongly encouraged to seek a PCR and engage in daily testing for 7 days.
- All visitors to the school will be required to show evidence of a negative LFD test prior to arrival onsite and wear a face-covering throughout the duration of their visit.
- Assemblies will remain virtual.
- Lunches and breaktimes to continue in class bubbles.

We will be testing all secondary age pupils (who have consented) on their return to school tomorrow. If you haven't previously consented and wish your child to take part in our return to school testing programme or if you have previously consented and wish to withdraw consent, please contact a member of the Business Support Team via phone or email bst@astleypark.lancs.sch.uk before 9.15am tomorrow. Please ensure you have a contingency plan in place as you may be needed to collect your son or daughter should they have a positive test.



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Staff Updates


At the end of last term, we said goodbye and good luck to class teacher Mrs Anna Clarke, who has moved on to be a specialist teacher for the sensory impairment service at Wigan local authority. I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in her new post.

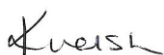
We have welcomed a new member to the business support team Donna Mitchell, we have also welcomed seven teaching assistants to the teaching and learning team, Jamie Flavell, Heather Bibby, Emily Brown, Alana Seddon, Katie Carter, Andrea Hand and Hayley Greenwood.

Holiday Heroes

Mrs Mahood and her team led a fantastic three-day holiday club during the break. The pupils had an amazing time and enjoyed taking part in a range of onsite and off-site activities. A huge thank you to all the staff who volunteered to work on the club without them it wouldn't have been possible. We are hoping to run 2-day holiday heroes in the February half-term, further info will be issued over the next few weeks.

Wishing you and your families all the very best for the New Year.

Take care & keep safe 



Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

