

Friday 07 January 2022

Update Letter



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all safe & well.

It has been great to welcome the pupils back to school and hear all about their festive break and the fun they have had.

We have lots of fun and exciting events this term, with lots to look forward to, starting next week with a visit from Tempest photography on Monday, they are in school to take pupil and class photographs. Photographs will be available to purchase, more details to follow next week.

We have World Religion Day on 17th January, Chinese New Year on the 01st of February and Safer Internet Day on 08th February.

We have, however, taken the decision to cancel the Valentines Disco planned for 10th February.

There have been several cases since returning, with four confirmed pupil cases, and we are awaiting the outcome of three PCR tests, there have been three confirmed staff cases this week. I am pleased to report they are not linked and are not part of a school wide outbreak.

We have had a significant number of staff absent from school and this has presented a daily challenge to keep each of the classes open. As I said in my letter on Tuesday, staff absence will be a serious and ongoing challenge over the next few weeks and months, and 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 engage in daily testing for 7 days, any staff member who develops symptoms will immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR.
- 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 need to engage in daily testing for 7 days, any pupils who develop symptoms must immediately self-isolate and seek a PCR.
- 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.



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

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



Pupil testing

On Wednesday we tested 48 of our secondary aged pupils, we identified two positive cases, both pupils were asymptomatic. We are thankful that both pupils have no symptoms and are otherwise well. In identifying these cases we have been able to reduce the risk of a class / school outbreak. It has confirmed the importance of regular testing in identifying asymptomatic cases and I would encourage you and your family, if you aren't already to engage in regular testing, so we can prevent the virus spreading across school and ensure school stays open.

Mrs Millard School Business Manager has put together a helpful poster, please see link [Astley Park School Self-Isolation Guidance](#) it is also available on the school website.

I understand the guidance is constantly changing and it can be very confusing, if you do have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact the school business support team or your child's class teacher who will be happy to help and support you as best they can.

Thank you all for your ongoing support, understanding and patience, it is greatly appreciated.

Take care & keep safe 🌈

Kieran Welsh
Headteacher

