

Friday 11 February 2022

## Update Letter



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all safe & well.

We have made it through to the end of term, what a challenging few weeks it has been.

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

We are looking forward to next half-term hoping that it will be a more settled picture for everyone. The overwhelming majority of the staff team have now had Covid and thankfully have fully recovered, in addition all staff are vaccinated and almost all have had their booster.

A significant number of the pupils have also had the virus and again thankfully have recovered and have been able to return to school.

However, the virus is still circulating and is highly transmissible and as a result we are continuing our existing covid measures into next term.

### 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 daily testing until Monday 28 February and then return to twice weekly testing each Sunday and Wednesday for the foreseeable future.
- 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.

### Testing prior to return

Please can I ask that all pupils who are able to tolerate an LFD test have one prior to returning to school on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February. This will hopefully identify any asymptomatic pupils that could unknowingly return to school and spread the virus.



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### Safer Internet Day

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022> the whole school engaged in a range of accessible activities, having fun whilst learning important messages about keeping themselves safe whilst online. The internet has had a tremendously positive impact on learning and socialising and whilst there are amazing benefits, there are also dangers, and pupils must be aware of how to keep themselves safe. If you have any concerns about how to keep your child safe online, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to help signpost you to a range of information, advice, and guidance on how best to do this. Please also look at our website, <https://www.astleypark.lancs.sch.uk/parents-carers/online-safety> which has a great deal of useful information and helpful links.


### Children's Mental Health Week

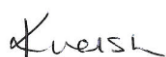
This week is Children's Mental Health week and classes having been taking part in activities to help them learn about keeping themselves healthy both physically and mentally. The pandemic has had a negative impact on our well-being and pupils have been talking about and learning helpful strategies to give their mental health a boost. There is a great parent & carer section on their website, which has lots of helpful advice to promote your child's mental health. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

### Queens Platinum Jubilee

This week also saw the start of the Queens Platinum Jubilee year, celebrating an amazing 70 years on the throne as our longest serving monarch. The country will be enjoying an extended bank holiday weekend at the beginning of June, this falls during our half-term break, so we have a special Jubilee Day celebration planned for Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, details to follow nearer the time. [www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk](http://www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk)

I hope you all enjoy the half-term break; we have lots to look forward to next term, please look at our calendar of events, whilst events will remain virtual for now, we hope to be able to return to onsite events in the not-so-distant future.

Take care & keep safe 



Kieran Welsh  
Headteacher

