



17 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last week in school, we have seen a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases that have been confirmed by a positive PCR test in students and members of staff. Having engaged with the local Public Health team in York, this seems to be part of a wider picture of increasing cases across the city in both primary and secondary settings. The Public Health team have reaffirmed that we are doing all of the right things by way of mitigation and control measures, but have asked us to reinforce key elements of what we are doing to minimise transmission of the virus in school, with all members of our school community. These are:

1. Face mask wearing in communal areas of school - please ensure that your child has their own face mask to wear in school (unless they are exempt from wearing one on medical grounds). Could you remind them that wearing a face mask is also strongly recommended on public transport if they are getting the bus to and from school. We do have a small supply of face masks for emergency replacement of broken masks, but will be charging 50p per mask issued if students arrive without one, to be able to cover the cost (starting on Monday 22 November 2021).
2. Regular hand washing with soap and water (on entry and at the start of break/lunch as a minimum). The facilities to wash hands in our dining areas remain in place, please can you remind your child that they should wash their hands regularly, particularly before eating food.
3. Good ventilation being maintained in classrooms wherever possible. Doors and windows will usually be open to allow a through draft to aid mechanical ventilation. It has been fairly mild so far, but it will be getting colder and so staff have been asked to find the right balance to support a comfortable temperature in the classroom whilst maintaining ventilation. The arrival of CO2 monitors in school will help us to achieve this.
4. Continue with regular home testing twice per week. Please remember that you will not be able to home test for 90 days after a confirmed, positive test result. The test kits we have been given to supply to students are slightly different than the ones previously issued so please follow the instructions that are contained within the test kits carefully. The swabbing method and test time are both different with the newer kits that will be issued.
5. Self-isolation and arranging a PCR test if your child is symptomatic (classic 3 symptoms of continuous cough, high temperature, loss or change to taste/smell). If your child displays these symptoms, please ensure that they self-isolate and go for a PCR test (they are much more sensitive than LFTs at home so just doing a home test that is negative is not enough to rule out COVID-19).

We will continue to review the number of cases of COVID-19 and work with Public Health to minimise further risks. This may involve changing some activities or events that we are undertaking in school, but these will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to try and maintain as much 'normal' school activity as possible.

With just five weeks of term left before the Christmas break, we want to ensure that our staff and students remain safe and well, particularly when there is likely to be much more inter-generational mixing with wider family groupings at this time. Everything we can do both individually and collectively will help.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dave Hewitt
Headteacher

HEADTEACHER: Mr David Hewitt, BA (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr A Haigh, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY HEAD: Ms C Mann, BA (Hons)