



Kirkburton Middle School

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Dear Parent/ Carer

Covid 19 Update

I hope you are well. I'm afraid to report that we have received news of some more positive cases of Covid-19 within our school community today. Those people who may have been a close contact with the confirmed cases have been directly notified and asked to self-isolate in line with national guidance. Whilst we are all very aware of the three common symptoms of coronavirus, a significant number of children who have tested positive experience different symptoms. These can include; a prolonged headache, sickness and diarrhoea, or flu like symptoms including aching joints and lethargy. If you suspect your child may be displaying symptoms of coronavirus, we ask you keep them off school and arrange for a test immediately. Please inform us as soon as possible should your child test positive.

School remains open and we will continue to monitor the situation and act on the ongoing advice given to us by the Local Authority and Public Health England. I will continue to keep you updated as much as possible. Can I apologise in advance if we need to contact you at short notice during the day to come and collect your child. As I'm sure you will appreciate this is a rapidly changing situation.

Kitchen Closure

I have been informed this afternoon that our kitchen team will be required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Unfortunately the local authority do not have the capacity to provide additional staff. As such, **there will be no kitchen service in school from now until Tuesday 1st December. Please could you ensure your child brings a packed lunch to school from tomorrow onwards. The school will provide a packed lunch each day during this period for those pupils who are in receipt of free school meals.**

Free School Meals

You will no doubt be very aware of the high profile national campaign in relation to free school meals. We received vouchers in school yesterday to cover the half-term period and we are in the process of distributing these to families. For pupils who are self-isolating, we are working with the local authority to provide food parcels and will update you when we know the exact nature of the provision. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact school should you have any questions in relation to this.

Remote Learning

With increasing numbers of pupils self-isolating, we have been asked if we will be offering any live lessons to those who are at home. We have started piloting our first live lessons and we are just finalising our arrangements for this to happen more widely. In the first instance, live lessons will be offered to those pupils whose bubble



has been closed, we will then look at how we can offer a blended approach for classes where there is a mix of pupils working in school and at home. I will send out further information in relation to this towards the end of the week together with full details about how to access live lessons. In the meantime, all pupils should continue to access their work via the [remote learning section](#) of the school website. We are working hard to ensure each lesson contains video resources to support learning and there are many studies which show this approach is just as effective, and often more effective, than live lessons. We wish to offer live lessons however as it enables pupils to speak to their teachers and also allows them to remain connected to the school. We are aware, from the return to school survey which parents completed earlier in the year, that access to devices is a challenge in some households and we will be contacting those families very shortly to see what support we can offer.

In preparation for live lessons, please could you check your child knows their school email address and password – these should be written in their planner. Their email address should be their initials followed by 4 numbers and ends @themast.co.uk. Their password should be the same as the password they use to log on to the school network. If you have any questions regarding your child's email address, please email our IT Technician Jamie Webster jwebster@scissett.co.uk who will be able to offer further assistance.

Response time

We currently have a number of staff who are absent and as such our response times may be a little longer than usual. We will still aim to respond to any enquiries within 48 hours however your patience is appreciated at this moment in time. In the event of an emergency, please contact the school office.

Thank You

This is undoubtedly a very difficult time for us all. Despite the difficult circumstances we are all facing, I continue to be overwhelmed by the lengths our young people and staff go to each day to support each other; we could not ask for more. Thank you for all your ongoing support it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Taylor
Headteacher