



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Exec. Headteacher: Mr S.Cox BSc Hons MA (Ed) NPQH

Headteacher: Mr S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH

Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C. Montgomery BSc MSc NPQSL

e-mail: admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

Web: www.montgomeryschool.co.uk

All Hallows Road

Bispham

Blackpool

FY2 0AZ

Tel: 01253 356271

Fax: 01253 352305

Inspiring Excellence Together

Dear Parent/Carer,

As I write, we have had two full weeks of students back to school and we have been delighted with the maturity of the students adapting to the new routines and expectations. Our staggered starts/finishes and breaks/lunch are working well and students are really appreciating less busy dining halls, as year groups are not mixing. PE staff have been very impressed with how students have adapted to the new guidelines for PE and the focus on more theory lessons.

What could happen if the school becomes aware of a positive case?

You will have seen in the news over the last couple of days that there has been many hundreds of schools having to close partially or, even in some cases, fully. Therefore, I write to prepare you for what **could** happen if we were officially informed by a parent that their child had tested positive for COVID-19 or if we had a member of staff test positive.

If we were informed officially of such a case in our staff or student body, the first thing we would do is follow the government guidance and call the local Health Protection Team. I will discuss with the HPT the controls we have in place, which you can read in our Risk Assessment on our website, to determine what the next steps should be. In terms of a student testing positive, this would likely mean that the year group of that student would need to move to remote learning for a period of time defined by the HPT, which could be up to two weeks. I have used the word could above as the response from the HPT is not set in stone, so I am only discussing what we believe is likely.

The decision to partially close the school in any way will not be made in isolation and will be made following discussions with our Executive Headteacher and **not before we have discussed it fully with the local Health Protection Team**. I am told that after the initial contact, it can take up to 3 hours for the HPT to call the school back for the full discussion and for a decision to be made. The final decision will be made by the HPT and the school will follow the instructions given.

Therefore, it is very important that you are clear on the following:

- If a child tests positive, the parent/carers should contact the school immediately to let us know. They should not discuss it with anyone else and **certainly not put it on social media**. The school will only make a decision after discussion with the HPT.
- The school will inform you of any closure partially or otherwise only by
 - Text message
 - Expressions App
 - Message on our school website
 - Email address if we have it

Hence, it is very important that we have up to date contact details for you. **We will send a check message to you today (Wednesday) via the top three communication types today**. If you do not receive a message then please send us an email to

admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

stating your child's full name, tutor group and contact mobile number. Then we will add the email address this was sent from to your child's contact details.

The time of day that we actually have the discussion with the HPT will determine how we facilitate a year group moving to remote learning.

If this decision is made in the evening or the weekend then we will inform all parents of the affected year group by the above means clarifying the length of the self-isolation period (time not in school) and this will be followed by an official letter.

If the decision happens during the day then:

- if it is close to the end of the day we will hand out letters to the affected year groups before they leave for the day.

- If it is earlier in the day then we will contact parents to discuss how their child is going to return home and we will put extra social distancing measures in place between those students until their return home has been arranged.

If the decision is taken to close partially or fully, then children of keyworkers will also need to self-isolate.

Children showing symptoms

I am also going to take the opportunity to reiterate the current advice from the Director of Public Health for Blackpool that was published in the Blackpool Gazette on Friday. It stated that as well as the main potential symptoms for COVID-19 which are

- A new persistent cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

There are other symptoms that we should err on the side of caution when deciding whether to send your unwell child to school which are

- Extreme tiredness, that obviously is not the result of a lack of sleep
- New aches or pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhoea
- Headaches
- Conjunctivitis
- Rashes on the skin or discolouration of fingers or toes
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Loss of speech or movement

This does mean that if we are assessing students in school and we feel that a child meets any of the above criteria then we will look to contact parents/carers and arrange them to be picked up. We are not doctors, so we will make judgements based on the advice we have been given. If you are called and asked to pick-up your child, then please come as soon as you can for obvious reasons and you will need to bring a mask to adhere to our policy when entering Reception.

I remind that the guidance states that if any member of your household develops one of the three main symptoms above then that person as well as the rest of the household should isolate for 14 days and the person showing symptoms should arrange to be tested.

Remote learning

If in the event of a partial closure or that a particular household needs to isolate, we can assure you that remote learning plans are in place, that can be immediately accessed via our website and google classroom. **Details of this are in the student planners.**

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation in these matters as we work together to ensure the safety of all our Montgomery Family.

Regards



Mr. Careless
Headteacher