



Inspiring Excellence Together

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

5th November 2020

Implications for schools under the new National Lockdown restrictions

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you in light of the government guidance for schools during the national lockdown period published yesterday. I was hoping to write to you before today though that was based on the statement that this guidance was due to be published on Monday.

The 13-page guidance if you would like to read it yourself is

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020?utm_source=4%20November%202020%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Sorry for the long link you can instead Google “Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions”

I will quote from the guidance itself in *italics*.

Relevant parts of the published guidance are:

- *Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school.*
- *Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are absolutely necessary.*
Therefore, meetings with parents/carers will be by appointment only and the default communication will be by telephone, email or virtual.
- *The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can take action to reduce risks still further.*
- *Staff and children who are clinically vulnerable or have underlying health conditions but are not clinically extremely vulnerable may continue to attend school.*
- *Where schools are offering extra-curricular activities (that is, before and after school clubs) they should only do so where the primary purpose is for childcare.*

We do not run any such clubs so there will be no extra-curricular after school clubs from Friday 6th November to at least Wednesday 2nd December. This does not apply to the current Year 11 intervention sessions and detentions.



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Students who are extremely clinically vulnerable

- *More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.*
- *Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school during the period this advice is in place.*
- *Parents of clinically extremely vulnerable children will be receiving a letter shortly confirming this advice.*

Students who live with people who are extremely clinically vulnerable

- *Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education or childcare.*

This does mean unfortunately that, as per both national and local guidance, if your child is not attending school due to this reason they it will be marked as unauthorised absence.

Having now seen the guidance we believe that the guidance itself does not have significant impact on our available staffing. Therefore, we intend to be open fully over the 4 weeks of the national lockdown. With Test & Trace and NHS App messages and other reasons for self-isolation having the potential to affect staff attendance to work this of course is subject to change.

Regards

Mr. Careless