



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Jonathan Souter

22 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Precautionary covid measures in Year 5

I am writing to share some precautionary measures that we are having to temporarily put in place in Year 5 in order to protect against a rise of covid cases in school. These measures will come into effect on Thursday 23rd September 2021. We understand that some of these measures may cause disappointment and we would like to reassure parents and carers that they have not been taken lightly and have been taken with the best interests of our school community in mind.

- The start time of the school will be staggered for children in year 5. **They should arrive at school at 8:55am and no sooner from Thursday 23rd September until further notice.** Children in Year 5 will go straight to their form classes where they will be met by their teachers.
- Year 5 children will stay in their year group bubble for lessons and break times and will not mix with other children in school until further notice. Children will play in a designated area of the yard in their year group bubble.
- **Year 5 children will be required to arrive at school dressed in their PE kit** on Thursday 23rd September and Monday 27th September and this will continue on Mondays and Thursdays until further notice. This is to remove the need to use the PE changing facilities on site, which is shared with other year groups.
- **Year 5 children should bring a packed lunch to school for the rest of this week** (Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th September). For children who receive a Free School Meal, a packed lunch will be provided. We will contact parents and carers on Friday with arrangements for the following week.
- Teaching and support staff who work in year 5 will be required to wear a mask.
- The end time of the school will be staggered for children in year 5. **They will be dismissed from school at 3:35pm** to allow children in all of the other year groups to disperse.
- School **clubs will be temporarily cancelled for children in year 5 until further notice**, with the exception of Dodgeball which will run on a Monday after school until 4.30pm.
- We are kindly asking that **children in Year 5 do not bring in cakes** for Friday 24th September for the MacMillan Cancer coffee afternoon. The day will still be a non-uniform day for children in Year 5 to raise money for the charity and refreshments will be provided by school for children to purchase if they want.
- **We have cancelled the face to face appointments for Year 5 parents on Monday 27th September.** Instead, Year 5 staff will make a phone call home to parents around that time. For parents of Year 5 children who still wish to speak with a member of staff in person, an appointment will be made at a later date when we are able to.

We are very disappointed to be putting these measures in place so close to the start of term, especially when our Year 5 children have settled so well into life at Whytrig Middle School and we thank you for your continued support around this. We expect this to be a temporary measure and we work together to ensure the safety of the school community, so please do not be concerned about sending your child into school. However, if your child does present with any covid symptoms you should not send them in to school and organise a pcr test. Parents and carers may choose to do their own lateral flow tests at home for their continue peace of mind. These measures will be under constant review and we will notify parents and carers of any changes through the usual channels of communication. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mr J K Souter
Head of School