



26th February 2021

RE: Weekly update 26/2/21

Dear parent carers

I hope that your half term break has been an enjoyable one. It was thankfully very quiet in the Track and Trace inbox so our leadership team on rota were able to relax into the week. Thanks also goes to teachers who were all at hand to support with contacting families and staff in case of any notifications of a positive test result.

The last couple of terms have been tough - with bubble isolations, supporting remote learning, the introduction of lateral flow testing, and implementing bespoke class rotas, but we got through it together! I am very grateful for your ongoing support throughout the pandemic as families have shown commitment to teaching and learning, worked with our dedicated staff to enable our processes to work, and shown trust and confidence in our measures to keep our environments Covid-secure.

As a result of this partnership, we have been able to remain open throughout to enable more and more pupils to come to school. We are proud to serve our Severndale community as over 65% of our pupils are now in daily attendance.

The situation this week - Class bubble closures

- Thankfully there have been zero positive Covid test results.
- Zero class bubbles closed.
- There have been zero asymptomatic cases identified from the lateral flow tests.

Updated government guidance – Impact to Severndale pupils from 8th March 2021

file:///C:/Users/sxl51/Downloads/Additional_operational_guidance_for_special_schools_special_post-16_institutions_and_alternative_provision%2022%202%2021.pdf

- All pupils will be expected to return to school, apart from pupils who are identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable.
- Leave of Absence requests granted due to concerns regarding the pandemic will cease.
- Bespoke class group rotas will finish, and will return to function at full capacity.
- Pupils and staff who are identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable will be expected to continue to learn/ work from home until 31/3/21. Wellbeing checks and remote learning will continue for these pupils.
- Our Covid risk assessment will be reviewed and updated and all our Covid-safety control measures will continue as they are, e.g. the offer of lateral flow testing for secondary age pupils and staff from across the academy, implementation of class bubbles. These are detailed in the Covid-19 risk assessment.

Reminders

- **Transport** - Please reinstate your child/ young person's transport to start on the 8/3/21.



- **Parental vigilance** - Please continue to be vigilant regarding the health of your child/ young person and keep your child at home for closer observation if they seem unwell. You are able get a 'routine' test for your child if they present with any secondary symptoms, as explained in the attached information flyer. Please **DO NOT** send your child/ young person to school in these circumstances. We are grateful for your thoughtfulness and attention to help keep our school open to all pupils, with the minimum of disruption.
- **Absence from school** - Please keep us fully informed of any absences at your earliest opportunity.
- **Staffing levels** - Please note that we will always seek to keep class groups open in the event of staff isolation due to a positive case within their household/ notification via NHS Track and Trace. However, if we are unable to provide sufficient staffing levels, we may need to close a class group due to health and safety reasons until a safe solution can be found.
- **School routines** - If your child/ young person is late for transport/ school or has a health/dental appointment, we encourage you to make every effort to bring your child/ young person to school later in the day to reinstate and develop school routines and engagement for learning. Please let your class teacher know if your child/ young person needs help to get back into routine.

I am sure that you will agree that this next phase of schools re-opening, vaccination programme, and lifting of national lockdown are welcome changes and a positive step towards the 'freedoms' that so many of us are craving. However, it is completely normal to feel apprehensive/ cautious after a long period of worrying news reports and instructions to stay at home. Please share yours and your child/ young person's thoughts and feelings about returning to school in the week ahead so that we may use your input to build in strategies to support a smooth transition.

If you have any queries, feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal