21st September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just an update the on Covid status in school and to re-assure you we are doing all we can to keep your children and our staff safe. So far we have had two class bubbles going into isolation due to two separate staff members testing positive. Both staff members are well and one has already returned to school.

Yesterday we took the decision to isolate a further 3 bubbles due to staff and pupil symptoms. One child has already had a negative test result and we anticipate the others will all return negative too. As soon as the test results return negative we will re-establish the bubbles.

I hope you appreciate that we are thinking of your child’s wellbeing and that of our staff. If we know staff or children have Covid symptoms and we let them return to school before the test result then they could infect others unnecessarily.

We are trying to balance the confidentiality of our staff and your children. As we speak, only one child under 11 has tested positive in Newcastle, obviously in another school, but we are still not taking any risks.

Our whole school Risk Assessment can be found on our website alongside our internal Covid Guidelines.

Please help us all by following the NHS and Public Health guidance on Covid symptoms. A cough on its own may not be a Covid cough, in particular if it is associated with a runny nose and a normal common cold symptoms. If in doubt call 111 and ask for advice. We’ve had so many false alarms in school and, where children have been tested, every result has been negative.

We will be teaching and learning outdoors for significant periods each day so please send in appropriate clothing for the weather and don’t forget sun cream as we may well encounter another warm spell soon.

Please, please keep safe, keep your child clean, wash clothes daily, don’t send in any toys or resources with your child, etc. If you can follow this guidance we will help reduce the risks for everyone at school.

**Other updates.**

* We will continue to use DoJo for daily/weekly communications unless you prefer a written home school diary. Let us know your details.
* Remember our school rules do not allow any child to wear jewellery, in particular ear rings for their own safety
* Please feel free to contact school at any time to check on the welfare of your child
* No Hydro or Swimming yet but we aim to re-introduce these soon. Rebound and Physio will continue as normal
* Hopefully quite a few meetings will remain remote on Teams or Zoom. If you don’t have access to this technology we will make other arrangements
* You can order your child’s uniform following the link on our website or via our Admin Team
* Physiotherapy Clinics are now taking place in school again
* Medical Clinics will resume shortly
* There is now a Local Authority Risk Assessment for School Transport which you could ask for from the Local Authority.

**A reminder to all of those currently attending school, please, please follow these guidelines to help keep all of our staff and children safe.**

**Please follow the joining instructions for your child returning to school.**

* The school day has returned to 9:00am – 3:15pm Monday to Friday.
* **We MUST have at least one emergency contact number that will be answered for your child. If you’ve changed numbers let us know immediately.**
* If your child is travelling to school on Local Authority Transport, make sure you let us know of any changes and that you inform Local Authority Transport if your child is unwell or not attending school for any reason.
* If you are bringing your own child please **wait in your car** until a member of staff collects your child, or in the vestibule at Reception. **Do not come into the building** without consent. No Parent/Carer is allowed into school without an invitation or appointment.
* If you are visiting school you will have to sign in, leave a contact phone number and wear a face mask.
* Please send in a bag of labelled spare clothes that will remain in school.
* Please **clearly label all of your child’s** belongings.
* Please send in your child’s PE kit which will be returned for washing after each use.
* If your child has medications please pass them over to staff on drop off or via the escorts.
* Please check the expiry dates for all medications.
* Your child **must come in** **clean clothes each day**. Do not wear the school uniform unless you guarantee to wash it in-between use.
* Please ensure your child has clean, short fingernails.
* Your child **must shower**, bathe and change into clean clothes when they return home from school.
* Please ensure your child **brings in their own sun protection** in a clear bag and a sun hat.
* Make sure your child has washed their hands before coming to school. If you are able to, please take their temperature before journeying to school.
* **Obviously do not send your child to school if they are displaying any of the Covid 19 symptoms or if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms.**
* **Do not send** in any toys, in particular cuddly, cloth toys, just their medication and/or packed lunch. Please feel free to send in bottles of water or juice if you prefer your child to drink from your own containers, but we will have drinks and a school lunch available to all.
* **Please let us know the minute your child or anyone they come into contact with has tested positive for the virus or is displaying any of the symptoms. We must be clear that this applies to any single one of the symptoms.**
* If anyone in your child’s bubble contracts the virus, all of those children and staff will be asked to stay at home for fourteen days and self-isolate, or until that person has been tested negative. We may ask you to isolate your child if we know staff/pupil members have Covid symptoms until they come back with a negative test result.
* Remember, if your child has been asked to self-isolate and you take them for a test when they are not showing Covid symptoms and they test negative that they will still need to isolate for 14 days. Self-isolation means exactly that. Your child cannot play outside with friends in the street, go to the park, visit relatives, go shopping but must remain indoors for 14 days.
* Feel free to phone school for daily updates on your child or ask if you want a note sending home with your child. We will do our best to keep you informed. The Class Teacher or Admin Team will get back to you at break, lunchtimes or after school so as not to disrupt learning.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Rollings

Head Teacher