



29 January 2021

RE: Weekly update – 29/01/2021

Dear parent carers

I hope that you are well and finding positive ways to get through this (hopefully last) lockdown. It has been great to speak to some parent carers this week both at the school gates and in an annual review meeting. It is clear from these conversations that we are all finding it tough and although we are all in the same lockdown, we have all been affected different ways and have different perspectives depending on our situations and families. For our families who also care for a child / young person with special needs, it is clear that you are doing an amazing job in managing in this current climate. Our fingers are tightly crossed for a swift turn around on vaccine administration for everyone who would like it.

You may be aware that last Saturday, I received a call from the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH), in Gobowen. Following weeks of lobbying to the Department for Education and Local Authority, it was a mixture of relief and pure gratitude to be offered vaccinations for our staff. Thank you to parent carers and staff members who have also lobbied local MPs to get us to this point at this early stage of vaccine roll out. We are very thankful to the staff at RJAH for their support and work to get these sorted for us. We will continue to lobby for parent carers and our children and young people. We are a step closer to 'normality'.

Public Health England has produced an easy read guide to COVID-19 vaccination leaflet which we would like to share with you, it can be viewed / downloaded by using the following link:

<https://generalpracticebulletin.cmail19.com/t/d-l-qljklk-jlddoyhiu-d/>

The situation this week

Staffing and class groups:

- This week, overall attendance has reached as high as 56% on Monkmoor Campus, 40% at Severndale@Mary Webb and up to 76% at Futures. We are grateful for the continued support of parent carers and staff for working together to ensure our environments remain safe places for everyone.
- To maintain our clean environments and enable pupils and staff to sanitise/ wash hands even more regularly during the period of national lockdown, we are managing pupil numbers in all classes. We have worked with the parent carers of 29 class groups to agree bespoke pupil rotas, with priority of full time provision given to pupils with additional vulnerabilities.

Class bubble closures:

- 1 transport bubble isolated due to a positive test result, confirmed by schools transport.
- 1 class bubble closed and re-opened following negative test results.
- 3 class bubbles have closed to isolate as we await the test results of a pupil and a member of staff. These are isolated cases.



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Lateral Flow Tests – testing for asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers

- Testing has continued this week and is working very smoothly for secondary aged pupils and staff across all 3 sites. Huge appreciation goes to all our staff who have enabled this to happen and work so well. Thankfully we have not had any positive test results from these Lateral Flow Tests this week.

Severndale's remote education offer

On Monday I sent you a copy of Severndale's remote learning offer. This has been informed by feedback given from parent carers and staff over the past year, particularly since September when the situation changed for many families who returned to work and therefore had different pressures to juggle when supporting their child / young person's learning, health, behaviour and care needs. The offer for remote learning and support enables a suggestion of structure and approach, however we have reflected the need for flexibility to enable us to work together positively.

In our case, overall effectiveness of remote learning will be the result of close partnership working with you - so we thank you for your ongoing feedback to our staff, your support and suggestions for continuous improvement to ensure we do all we can to make this a productive time for everyone.

Remote learning survey results – equipment and planning

We are grateful for the feedback from 72 families who responded to our survey. We are pleased to learn that the vast majority are happy with our offer of distance learning and support, and we are picking up any issues regarding the sharing of planning on an individual basis.

Regarding the access to equipment, we have identified a further 18 families who would benefit from the government laptop scheme, and we will be working with these families to access this. This is in addition to 36 devices that we have already allocated through the scheme since last summer.

The focus has been on access to technology, however there may be other equipment that may better support your child / young person's physical/ sensory needs that supports their learning/ engagement/ health needs while they are at home. Please let us know if there is anything else that we can support your child / young person with.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that you feel we can help you with.

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal