



## **RE: Weekly update 5/3/21**

Dear parent carers

I hope this update finds you well.

Following the government announcement to re-open schools from 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have been preparing our welcome back to pupils who have continued to learn from home in partnership with families. We understand that this next step is worrying for some, so we would like to reassure you of some of the key Covid safety measures that we have in place across all of our sites:

- 1) Class bubbles and zones – they are kept as secure as possible to avoid mixing and limit shared spaces and resources.
- 2) Precautionary bubble closures – we will proactively close bubbles if a child or adult shows any Covid symptoms while we await Covid test results.
- 3) Face coverings are expected for staff and secondary aged pupils and above, to wear in communal areas, such as corridors, and within classrooms (new aspect within the latest government guidance) – where possible and appropriate. Please provide your child/ young person with their own face covering.
- 4) Secondary aged pupils and older, continue to be offered weekly Lateral Flow tests at school/ college to catch potential asymptomatic Covid cases, as described in the information attached. Please complete the consent form if you would like your child/ young person to access this weekly testing. Currently we routinely test 40 pupils each week.
- 5) From today, staff will have a supply of home testing kits that they keep at home to test themselves with at their discretion on a weekly basis. Most staff have participated in the Lateral Flow testing on site twice weekly since January.
- 6) We are grateful to have had 73% of our staff receive their first dose of the Covid vaccine so far. Severndale staff were identified as frontline staff who undertake health and social care duties for vulnerable children and young people – it has been reported that those who have had a vaccine are less likely to be carriers/ transmitters of Covid.

It is the combination of these and all the other safety measures set out in the updated Covid risk assessment that help to keep Severndale Covid-secure.

As we welcome all pupils back to school on Monday, We anticipate more vehicles arriving on monkmoor site. We politely ask that you take care when driving/ parking on site, pay attention to where you park (NOT on the road, as this blocks traffic), and to arrive and leave the site as safely and swiftly as possible to keep the flow of traffic.

We will be sending you links to our Covid Risk assessments separately by text message in due course, and these can also be found on our website.

### **The situation this week - Class bubble closures**

- Thankfully there have been zero positive Covid test results.
- 2 class bubbles closed and reopened within the week
- There have been zero asymptomatic cases identified from the lateral flow tests.



## Parent carer vigilance

We are very grateful of your on-going parent carer vigilance as you continue to be proactive and make cautious decisions to **keep your child/ young person at home if they feel unwell**. However, please keep us updated and let us know if there is anything we can support you with.

## Class bulletins

This week we are introducing 'Class Bulletins'. This idea came from the parent council and several informal discussions with parent carers on how communications between home and school can be further improved. You should expect this class briefing on a weekly basis, which shares highlights of the week and how you can support your child/ young person for the week to come.

Additionally, we are preparing to roll out departmental class apps this half term to keep up our connection with yourselves on how the curriculum, homework, remote learning and pupil work can be shared and communicated during the pandemic and beyond. We will send you further information soon on the following apps that our departments will use:

EYFS – Tapestry

Pre-Formal, Semi-Formal, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Departments – Evidence for Learning (EFL)

Formal and Futures Departments - Seesaw

## Class pets

Formal Department have begun to introduce pets into classes as part of their Covid-catch up strategy, which can later be shared across the academy when we are able to release bubbles. We know that pets can help our students to build empathy, responsibility and life skills, and in these ever changing times, the idea is that a consistent companion in class will support our children and young people with this motivating and engaging daily routine and structure. We also hope that the anticipation of pets in school will encourage students back to school and provide alternative emotional, educational and personal learning opportunities that have been prevented elsewhere due to covid restrictions.

Following planning and preparation led by students in the formal department, we will welcome tanks of colourful temperate fish into three of our classes, and in the coming weeks we will also be have a tortoise and two rabbits! We look forward to these class groups sharing lots of information and pictures as they arrive, make sure you check out our website and facebook page for regular updates on our new additions.

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

Best wishes,

Sabrina Hobbs, Principal