

13th October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Covid risk assessment update

I regret to inform you that there has been a recent increase in positive cases in school. As a result of this, I have taken the decision that face coverings are now mandatory for staff and students in communal areas when on school premises (unless there is a valid exemption). In making this decision I have consulted with Public Health Gateshead and they are supportive of the actions I am taking. In addition to this, the following will also be implemented until Monday 8th November;

- Forward facing seating in classrooms
- Students must wear face coverings when using Scholar buses
- Student assemblies will be held via Teams
- Large scale staff meetings and training will be via Teams
- Charity Week will still take place next week but large scale events are being rearranged. Our Staff Come Dancing, Variety Show and Masked Singer events that were scheduled for next week will be rescheduled. We will communicate new dates for these events in due course.

You will be aware that the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) have not yet been able to provide us with a date when students will be able to receive a vaccination. This is something we have raised with the NHS and await a response. I will communicate this date to parents and carers as soon as we receive it.

In the meantime, can I please encourage you to support your child to test themselves twice weekly (ideally on Sunday and Wednesday evenings) and to register the result with the NHS. If your child does display any symptoms or test positive on their LFT, then they should be kept off school and a PCR test will be required. Please inform school immediately if they will not be in school by telephoning 0191 496 0026, or if it is the weekend, by emailing covidtestresult@whickhamschool.org. As previously advised, proof of a positive PCR test result must also be sent to this email address.

This decision has not been taken lightly but is in the best interests of our students and staff. I appreciate your continued support in ensuring that we minimise risks whilst also ensuring students receive the very best education.

Yours sincerely



Fraser Turnbull
Headteacher

