

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Update on control measures**

I am writing to let you know that Doncaster Public Health Team has issued updated guidance to schools in light of case rates in the area and the impact on local health services.

#### **Local change to rules on household contacts**

Public Health in Doncaster have advised that, in this period of high cases in our local area, **if someone in your household has tested positive for Covid 19 using an LFD or PCR test, that pupils/students should stay at home and complete the following steps:**

- If your child develops symptoms on day 1 or 2 they should get a PCR test straight away
- If they don't have symptoms, they should get a PCR test 3-5 days after their household member started with symptoms (or took a test if they had no symptoms)
- If this test is negative, the child can return to school and complete LFD tests for the remaining isolation period of the household member
- If the child develops symptoms at a later date, they must stay at home and PCR test again.

This applies to primary and secondary age children, unless your child has tested positive for Covid 19 via PCR in the past 90 days or has had at least one dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago.

If your child needs to stay at home under these rules, please let us know at [info@hatfieldwoodhouse.org.uk](mailto:info@hatfieldwoodhouse.org.uk) and we will work with you to provide them with high quality remote learning materials.

As you know, since the return to school in September, we have continued to provide high quality face to face education for our children. We have been delivering inspiring learning opportunities and experiences for your child, whilst following national guidance on Covid control measures. We will continue to:

- Strongly encourage all staff to complete twice weekly LFD tests.
- Maximise ventilation of classrooms
- Carry out additional cleaning, with a focus on frequently touched surfaces
- Use fogging machines to clean communal areas and classrooms on a rota basis
- Carry out activities such as PE outside, as much as possible
- Encourage hand and respiratory hygiene amongst staff and pupils.
- Advise visitors to stay away if they have any symptoms.

In light of the new public health advice, we are also stepping up our in-school control measures for a two-week period in the first instance. The enhanced measures we will put in place from tomorrow Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November are:

- Children will remain in bubbles for learning, lunchtime and break-times. These 4 bubbles will be Foundation Stage classes (Mrs Kantecki and Mrs Hyland) Key Stage 1 (Mrs Phillips and Mrs Lynch) lower Key Stage 2 (Miss Turner and Ms Lawrance) and upper Key Stage 2 (Miss Winks and Mrs Chesney)
- Breakfast and After School Clubs will be seated in rows. Of the additional extended provisions provided by school Year 6 booster, Drama and Multi-sports will go ahead.

However Young Voices rehearsal after school will be for Year 3, 4 only. (Year 5 & 6 will rehearse within the school day. Cookery club will go ahead for Y1 & Y2 only for this half term. All lunchtime activities will be cancelled except music lessons.

- Initially for this 2-week period, we will let the children straight into the classrooms when they arrive in the morning. However, this does put additional pressure on teachers as they get ready for the school day. This is not sustainable for a longer period of time so should the guidance be extended, we may need to revert to staggered start and end times to the school day. We would appreciate parents wearing masks again to drop off and collect children from the playground and waiting in the allotted areas.
- Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the academy

We will operate these enhanced arrangements for a two-week period, subject to regular review until Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. We will write to you before this date with an update on our plans.

We are looking forward to an exciting half term of learning and celebration in our school. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kind regards

Mrs H Acton