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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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Ref: admin/KR ParLet/21-22/Covid/kv

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, prior to half-term, our school experienced a significant increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases.

This resulted in the necessity for us to put in place additional measures to minimise the risk of spreading the infection further.

At its peak, we had 18% of our school cohort absent with a confirmed result and therefore, after consultation with Public Health England, we implemented a return to year group bubbles and encouraged regular lateral flow tests to be completed.

Following the half-term break, the number of positive infections in school had reduced to less than 3% and therefore we were able to remove the necessity of bubbles and return to a more normal way of operating.

However, over the last two weeks, we have seen this figure start to rise again and currently it is up to 6%. The threshold for implementing more formal additional measures is 10% and therefore it is important that we are vigilant as a school community.

We have been advised by Public Health England to request that all pupils complete twice weekly LFD testing at home and report the result of those tests at [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test).

In addition, the wearing of facemasks is recommended when in transition around the school and in crowded areas. These should also be worn on the bus to and from school.

Please encourage your child to take all available precautions, to sanitize frequently and to maintain social distancing.

In school, we are still not holding large gatherings such as assemblies and we will continue to ventilate classrooms by keeping some windows and the classroom doors open.

Equipment should still not be shared and any communal equipment in school will be cleansed and sanitised between use.

As ever, if your child is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, please complete lateral flow tests more frequently. This is because the sensitivity of the tests means that whilst an individual may be infected, they may still initially produce a negative result until the virus has reached a certain saturation point. If you are in any doubt, please make arrangements for a PCR test to be completed.

At this time, we also have two members of staff who are unfortunately absent with the virus and therefore, this means that once again, a small number of lessons are required to be covered by somebody else. I have been hugely impressed by the manner in which our students have responded to any such disruptions and I would like to thank you and your child for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Rowlands'.

Mr Rowlands