

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

If you have ordered MacMillan cakes we hope that you enjoy them this weekend. We have made a couple of adjustments to our COVID procedures in school:

- If you are picking your son or daughter up at the school gate, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing
- We are going to increase our mask wearing around school. The principle we are going to use is that we will wear a mask or shield if we are a visitor to a bubble. So for example I do not teach regularly in any bubbles apart from Y7 so I am a visitor to bubbles so will wear a mask when I need to go into classrooms. We are reminding parents to wait in vehicles or wear a mask at the gate.
- One member of the leadership will now take a weekly turn to not have any contact with the other three senior leaders. This is so that if any of us develop symptoms one of the leadership team can stay in school and keep things going. I have volunteered to go first from today and for next week, all my in-school meetings will be on zoom. I will still be around and about school wearing a mask.

If your son or daughter has symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 and go to testing to arrange. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. Students must stay off school until the test results have come back negative and a confirmation of the results must be sent to the school office.

The symptoms are:

- A temperature
- A new persistent cough
- A loss of taste and/or smell

## Events

We have been organising our whole school diary which has been a challenge this year as we have responded to the COVID pandemic. All our events this term are in the Spring term and will be online.

- **Form Tutor Catch Up** - We are currently running our meetings on the phone or on Zoom. Information has been sent out about these meetings
- **Harvest** – We are recording a Harvest Assembly which we will send you the link to on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Classes will watch the assembly in their tutor bases on Friday afternoon. A letter will be sent out next week about donations and items to send in for Harvest
- **Christmas** – We have a provisional list of Christmas events:
- **Carol Service** - We will send you the link to our carol service to watch during the last week of term. This would be recorded, and all classes would watch it at the same time.
- **Family Zoom Bingo** - Mr McCarthy is organising an evening on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December.
- **End of Term Assemblies** - We will record our end of term assemblies and send you the link to those as well.
- **Class Activities** - We will also be organising a number of class-based Christmas activities as well.

## Home Learning

In the summer we secured a government grant for a £1000 to develop **Google Classroom**. We have been working hard this term to get to the point where home learning including Homework will be on Google Classroom. In the event that children are required to self-isolate or there is a local lockdown, the school will provide on-line learning via Google Classroom. Next week we will send out further details about your son or daughter's Google Classroom logins, the acceptable use agreement and details of how to use it.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Walsh

## COVID 19 Check sheet

What to do if...	Action needed	Return to school when...
...my child has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the test comes back negative.
...my child tests positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for at least 10 days</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...they feel better. They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
...somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate</li> <li>Household member to get a test</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test result</li> </ul>	...the household member test is negative.
...somebody in my household has tested positive for coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
... the school or NHS Test and Trace have identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms or confirmed coronavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact school</li> <li>Self-isolate for 14 days</li> </ul>	...the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not come to school</li> <li>Contact the school office</li> <li>Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again