

Thursday 25th March 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for the way you have continued to support one another throughout the whole pandemic and especially the last few weeks. As you know, since returning to school on Monday 8th March, we have had a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 and this has led to different class isolations and unfortunately, a full school closure for this week.

The current strain of the virus which is now circulating, often referred to as the Kent or UK variant, is far more contagious. Despite a tight system of control that has been regularly reviewed and monitored in school, with approval from Health and Safety, we are continuing to look at ways to help manage the spread of the virus.

We have liaised closely with our Governors, Public Health, the Health & Safety Team and Durham Local Authority. We have undertaken another full review of the current risk assessment and will continue to act accordingly in this ever-changing situation.

It is vital, for the safety of our whole school family and community, that we continue to work closely together!

Anyone who has symptoms should take a test immediately and those without symptoms can access the Local Authority's community testing programme, details of which can be found on its website at <http://www.durham.gov.uk/CovidLFT>. Testing is free but must be booked in advance either online at https://bookwhen.com/dcc_testing or by phoning **03000 260 260**. Testing takes place at local venues across County Durham. **You can also request free Lateral Flow Tests for testing yourself at home.**

Self-isolation of people who have Coronavirus, or are at high risk of having the virus, is an important part of helping to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

- **Self-isolating means staying at home and not going out for any reason.**
- **Those people who test positive for Coronavirus must isolate at home, alongside all family members living in the household.**
- **Individuals, including children, are expected to self-isolate if they or another household member have symptoms of COVID-19.**
- **Individuals are legally obliged to self-isolate if they test positive for COVID-19 OR if they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.**



The Government states that Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring that children under the age of 18 years follow the rules of self-isolation. The Local Authority offers support to people having to self-isolate through its **Community Hub**. Find further details and support at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help>, by emailing communityhub@durham.gov.uk or by phoning **03000 260 260**.

Only a few weeks ago it was fantastic to welcome all our children back to school and we think they had enjoyed their return. All our children had been engaged in their learning, had good attendance and had been following the rules very carefully in school.

As always, we thank you for your support and understanding, particularly at this time. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact school in the usual way OR by phoning **03000 260260**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A. Farnell

Mr A. Kay

Mrs N. Pallister

Mrs T. Pemberton

Andrew Farnell
Head Teacher

Andrew Kay
Deputy Head Teacher

Nicola Pallister
Deputy Head Teacher

Trish Pemberton
Acting Chair of Governors