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Home Learning in the event of Covid Disruption

Dear Parents and Carers,

A number of local schools have had to send groups or classes of children home due to a small number of positive Covid-19 tests among staff or pupils. We know that there is a chance that there will be positive cases among our school community in the months ahead and we are planning to ensure that we are able to try to limit the impact on the education and lives of our children and families.

Last week we sent you out the advice sheet on the procedures to follow if you or your child have any symptoms or if you have close contact with anyone who has Covid-19. A copy is on the school website. Please ensure you read it carefully and ask if you have any questions.

Thank you everyone who has followed the guidance so closely and carefully since the start of term. We know we have been very cautious asking you to pick up some children, but we also know you understand why we are being careful at this time. Fortunately, so far all of our children have been able to return to school very quickly.

What happens if there is a confirmed case in school?

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 they and everyone in their household will be asked self-isolate. We will work closely with our Local Authority and Public Health to identify any children or adults who may have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive. Following their advice, the school will make careful decisions on which children will be asked to self-isolate. The rest of households do not need to isolate unless symptoms develop.

How will we be informed if there is a positive case in school?

We will contact directly any parents of children who are judged to have been close contacts of a confirmed case. Only they will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, all other children should attend as normal. We have seen in some other schools how quickly rumours and misinformation can spread on social media. We will always be open and direct with you at home and ask that you raise any questions or concerns directly with us and rely on information that comes direct from the school.

What happens if staff at school have to self-isolate?

This is a growing problem in all of our schools and many other workplaces. On most occasions, staff are having to wait for test results before returning to work and on some occasions are asked to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case. We will do all we can to keep every class open using every staffing resource we have. However, on rare occasions, if we cannot safely teach a class a partial closure may be necessary.

How will you support my child's education if they are self-isolating?

If a few children in a class are self-isolating the classteacher will be in touch with you by phone. They will direct you to the **Year Group Information Page** on the School Website and the SEESAW or Tapestry APPS. We will be uploading some resources and activities that the children would have been covering and will direct you to the relevant area of **White Rose Maths** and resources on **Oak National Academy** our national online teaching resource. Teachers will try to feedback on work uploaded to SEESAW and Tapestry, but please be aware that our staff will be juggling teaching the whole class as well as supporting a few at home, so be patient with us!



How will you support my child's education if the whole class or a 'bubble' are self-isolating?

In this scenario, it is likely that the classteacher will be self-isolating and will be able to teach from home. Daily tasks will be uploaded on SEESAW or Tapestry. The classteachers will use messages, video and uploaded resources to guide children through the day. We are also exploring the best options for some limited live interactions. Children will be expected to log in at the start of the day and work through the daily activities, sending work in through SEESAW/Tapestry.

How can I ensure my child does a full day of learning if I am working from home or caring for a younger sibling?

We know that throughout lockdown this has been a real challenge for many of our parents. We also know you will do the best you can in the time you have and we will understand that on some days children might not be able to complete every task or all finish at the same time. Don't worry we won't be sending any parents to Mr Ward to stay in and complete work!

How do I engage with online learning if I don't have devices or internet access at home?

It can be very hard especially if there are several children and a parent at home all sharing one tablet/lap top or phone to access work. We have tried to ensure over the lockdown that we have supplied as many paper copies of resources as possible to parents. We also try to set up activities that, once accessed on a device such as a phone, can then be completed offline. We have managed to get a limited number of laptops to parents who were struggling at home and we will be seeking to get hold of some more if we can through local and national schemes.

If you find it impossible to access any of our home learning please phone our **Family Support Officer Dan Tolan** or the school directly.

Will my child get Free School Meals if they are self-isolating?

Yes. If you are registered for free school meals and your child is off school for 14 days or longer, the school will aim to get meals to you as we did at the start of the lockdown. There are no government vouchers at this time, so we will be using our school kitchen to produce packed lunches and food parcels. As families may be self-isolating, we will not have the pickup service that we had in March and April, but will try to drop the meals off at people's houses.

What do I need to do now?

- Make sure you are registered for SEESAW (Years 1-4) or Tapestry (Nursery/Reception)
- Ensure you are registered for Parent Mail and receive all of our communications
- Start to look on the new **Year Group Information** pages on the website (These are new and are still being developed, but will supplement the work on SEESAW)
- If you or any of the family have any symptoms, follow the guidance and contact school.
- **Keep following national guidance to keep all of our community safe and our schools open!**

Thank you for all of your support and please talk to us if you have any concerns or questions.

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

