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### **IMPORTANT: Parents Please Help To Keep Our Schools Open** **5 Things You Can Do To Help**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing this letter in response to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in Newcastle and the changes in legislation that come in from this week. In particular, parents are asked to follow the law and guidance on mixing households and social distancing when coming to and from school.

Cases of Covid infection have more than doubled in our city in the last week and we are seeing the effects in many local schools. We do not want to be alarmist and we are still convinced that the risk to our children at their age is very low, however, every one of us needs to play our role in helping to bring cases down and ensuring that there are not further lockdowns affecting our children.

We feel that it is difficult for the school to be the body, that enforces the law around Covid legislation and guidance, but we are making a direct appeal to all of you to support the measures we are taking to keep our community safe.

#### **5 Things you can do to help us**

- **Wear a mask:** we actively encourage as many parents as are able, to wear a mask in and around the school site. Please do not approach a teacher or member of school or the school office staff if you are not wearing a mask.
- **Do not arrive, gather in or leave the school site in mixed households.** Legislation and guidance asks that households do not mix. The only exception to this is where childcare arrangements have been made.
- **Maintain social distancing.** Parents should not meet up to talk on the yard and everyone should keep to 1 metre + and ideally 2 metres distance. We understand this can be difficult at times on the yard and ask everyone to consider where they are standing.
- **Keep tightly to pick up and drop off times.** It is especially important that **Year 2 and Year 4** our later year groups aim to try arrive as near to 9am/3.20pm as possible. Please, leave the site straight after dropping off do not wait for another parent.
- **Keep your children with you** on the school grounds and when entering or leaving school. Do not let them run ahead.

**And number 6!** Please pass these messages on to anyone else picking up your children and to as many of our community as you are able.

We know this is a very challenging time for everyone and wish we did not have to make this kind of plea. We can't wait until all of our families are able to mix and talk on the school yard. We believe that the more we follow the guidance above, the quicker that will be.

Thank you for all of support.

Matt Ward (Headteacher)

