

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well, that you have had a good week and you continue to stay well. The local positive case rate in Warwick continues to be lower than the county and national averages which is testament to how well everyone is following the rules and doing their best to keep the infection rates as low as possible.

I have continued to scan the horizon this week for some indication about when schools might fully re-open but no one in government will commit to anything at the moment. Gavin Williamson has had another tough week but has only committed to say that we will be given 'two weeks' notice' when the decision to fully re-open school has been made. So, for the foreseeable future we continue as we are.

The big development from our perspective this week has been the introduction of rapid testing for all of our school staff. We have received training this week and had our home testing kits delivered yesterday so we are on track to implement staff testing from next week. These tests will provide another level of security to ensure our school environment is as safe as possible as this will enable us to discover any asymptomatic cases before they come into school which is intended to break chains of transmission.

This is another new system for us to implement and I am hopeful that this will run smoothly, adding another level of security to our already comprehensive system of controls.

Our pupil numbers have been fairly consistent this week and, following our planning with eligible families, we anticipate our numbers being around the 25% to 30% figure for the remainder of this half term. Many thanks to you all for supporting us to manage some consistency around these numbers so we can manage our staffing and school environment as safely as possible. I have received positive feedback regarding our current remote learning provision and I know that many of our families have got into good routines to help balance the competing priorities of family life, working from home and remote education. I don't underestimate the challenge this presents for you all at home and I hope that the live lesson teaching provided by our teachers is helping you to manage this better. A key part of this strategy has always been good access to technology and we have provided many of our families with equipment to use at home. If you are still struggling to access our remote education offer and feel that a laptop would help you to manage this more easily from home then please contact the school office and we will do our best to equip you with an internet-ready device.

Finally, the weekends aren't quite what they used to be but I hope you and your family will be able to make some time to do something nice together. It is important for all of our mental health and wellbeing to do something we enjoy, to make the most of our time together and to look forward to better times ahead.

Have a lovely weekend and stay well.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Mitchell (Head Teacher)