

Paper Copy Recipients

- Sample Student (Year 1, Samples)

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7 October 2021

Sample Parent

Sample Student (Year 1, Samples)

COVID Update

Dear parent & carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support during what has been a very difficult start to the term. This letter is to update you on the current COVID situation in our community.

Firstly, as you will know, I have informed you that we have positive cases of COVID in school.

I am also aware that many of you may not be familiar with the changes in regulations around Track and Trace. When positive cases are identified in schools, it is no longer the responsibility of the Head Teacher to inform the NHS of this. Track and Trace should contact all positive cases (or parents of positive children) and begin the Track and Trace system with them. Of course, I will assist in this process in any way that we can, in helping the NHS to identify potential close contacts.

We will also keep you informed that we have positive cases within school.

In addition to this, I report all cases to Northamptonshire Public Health and I also have access to a dedicated Department for Education Advice Line. We frequently phone this advice line and the only advice that we are given is that we are doing all that is expected of us. As I recently informed you, we are - in fact - doing more than is expected of us, having introduced tighter control measures earlier in the term.

Today, I have spoken to Environmental Health who have also checked all our risk assessments and current arrangements. They confirmed that I have followed the advice I have received and that I should continue to urge you all to ensure that you are vaccinated and testing regularly. They were very clear that the entire community needs to remain committed to fighting this virus together. I thank you for your support with this.

It has also been made clear that, although we all wish children to be in school as much as they possibly can be, it has been, and could still be, unavoidable that some classes have to learn remotely. I have listened to your views on the notice you would prefer of any school closures and will try to give you more notice whenever possible. It is simply not always practical to notify you the evening before, but I will make you aware where this is a possibility. At this moment in time, with staff shortages in high number across the county, I would advise you to make contingency plans just in case you need them.

I know that COVID has caused a huge disruption in all our lives and that we had hoped that we would have some return to normality this term. It is clear that the virus that remains active in our community and that we cannot yet return to our old lives. There are also a number of other germs circulating since schools returned in September. It is crucial that we remain vigilant and do all we can to keep everyone in our community safe.

I would be grateful if you would continue to do the following:

- wear face coverings when in the school building
- maintain social distancing in and around the school grounds
- ensure that you remain vigilant for the symptoms of COVID and do not leave the house if you have any of these
- consider regularly self-testing with Lateral Flow Tests - these have been a really good indicator of COVID cases within the school
- book PCR tests if you have any of the three main symptoms of COVID
- ensure that all eligible people in your family are double vaccinated.

Thank you for your ongoing support this term.

Kind regards,

Vicki