

6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would appreciate it if you could take the time to read this letter which consists of a number of different updates.

Covid-19

You will all no doubt be aware that guidance for schools was updated earlier this week to take account of the newly imposed restrictions in England. The changes do not significantly affect primary schools in most areas, however we have made some changes to our practice. Although it is still not mandatory to wear face coverings in a primary setting, we have asked all parents/carers and staff who are in the school grounds at drop-off and collection to wear a face covering and I would like to thank everyone concerned for their superb and immediate response to this request. I have also informed staff that they may wear a face covering when transitioning between lessons and in communal areas such as the staffroom if they wish to do so.

Sadly, I have to announce that the after-school clubs operated by Sporting Influence, which only started this week, will have to close. The guidance does not allow for extra-curricular activities of any kind unless they are primarily used to support childcare requirements. I feel very sorry for all the pupils who will be affected by this and for the excellent team at Sporting Influence who have put so much work into preparing to provide activities in the safest way possible.

For those parents who have paid for their children to take part in these clubs, there are two options. We sincerely hope that the clubs will restart at some point, but it is clearly impossible to predict when this will be. If you are happy for us to hold the money, we can guarantee your child a place once the clubs are able to restart. I appreciate however, that Christmas is looming and parents may well prefer a refund now to help with this expense. Please contact the school office if you require a refund but please be aware that we will not be able to hold a place for your child in this club once the money has been refunded.

There will be no extra-curricular clubs of any kind, operating until further notice.

The full guidance released on 4th November can be found here: [guidance](#)



I am very aware that it can be difficult sometimes to understand the guidance around testing and self-isolating and I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key points which can sometimes be overlooked.

- Someone who is self-isolating because they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) starts to feel unwell and gets a test for coronavirus themselves, and the test delivers a negative result. **They must still remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period.** This is because they could still develop Coronavirus within the remaining days.
- If someone has tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms, but then develops symptoms during the isolation period, **they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.**
- There can be confusion over whether you need to self-isolate for 10 or 14 days. The principle is that it can take 3 – 4 days for symptoms to develop once you have been exposed to the virus. So, **if you have symptoms you should self-isolate for at least 10 days (and also get a test).** If you have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive but have no symptoms yourself, then you should self-isolate for 14 days.

Please visit this link for more detailed guidance on self-isolation periods:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/>

If you are in any doubt whatsoever regarding your child's health, please keep them at home and contact the school with any questions you may have. Please remember that we would like all parents and carers to use the following email address to communicate any Covid-related matters: covid@western.n-yorks.sch.uk

Road Safety

Following my recent email where I shared some of the communication I have been having with NYCC on this issue, I would like to thank all those parents who have offered their support. They were so numerous that I have been unable to contact them all individually, but their responses were very much appreciated. I feel this could be a lengthy battle; I discovered this week that Rossett-Acre primary school have just secured a crossing patrol but, on contacting the Headteacher, I discovered that this has been achieved after several years of petition to the Council. There is no doubt that Cold Bath Road is busier than ever and it seems ridiculous that there are no traffic calming measures and only minimal speed limit signage next to a school of 500 pupils. I would encourage parents to politely contact the relevant people at County Hall (see my previous email for contact details) and add their voices to the campaign.

The Western Community

There has been much in the press lately about the government's decision not to directly fund free school meals during the holiday periods and it has been heartening to see so many local businesses stepping into this particular breach. However, the problem is much wider than this, with increasing numbers of families falling into poverty or significant financial hardship as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic. The school would very much like to work with parents and the wider community to try and do something to help. It is important that this isn't simply a knee-jerk reaction; I would like us to develop something sustainable which can help and support families in the years ahead and which puts into practice some of our key values as outlined on our website: **kindness, community, responsibility, collaboration, inclusion and respect.**



To begin with, we just need to make a start and Christmas would seem to be a suitable target. Providing food for needy families is just one area in which we could make a difference; being able to provide good quality, second-hand coats and shoes would also make a huge difference, as would providing some Christmas gifts aimed at a range of age-groups. It is important that we work in a co-ordinated way on this and I have already been in close contact with a number of parents who are keen to be involved and who have already developed a raft of interesting ideas. Between us, we will get back to parents with a proposal in the next week or two and explain how you can help and contribute to this initiative.

Many thanks for sticking with me this far and have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Tim Broad
Headteacher

