19 October 2020

Dear Pupil, Parent/Carer

As we enter our final week of the half-term the school needs to share important information across the school community. This is to support us in dealing with the current Covid-19 context, both local and national.

Masks: Following a review of the school's Covid-19 risk assessment, we are now making the wearing of masks/visors for pupils and staff compulsory with immediate effect.

Masks/visors will need to be worn inside the school building when going to and from lessons and when in, inside communal areas. They will not need to be worn when in the outside year group bubble area or when actually eating food in the internal dining areas. Pupils do not need to wear masks in lessons.

The school has placed an order for 1800 cotton, 3 layer masks that can be washed and reused. Every pupil and member of staff will be given one each. These will be given out on the first day back after the holiday break.

Can parents/carers please support the school by ensuring the pupils have a mask for the remainder of the week. Most pupils will already have one as they travel on buses or enter shops. For any pupil who does not have a mask we have a large (free) supply in reception, so do please ask for one.

Car Sharing: Do please consider the risks associated with children from different families travelling to and from school in the same car. Advice from Public Health England suggests that this is an area of high infection transfer.

Covid-19 and the impact on school: This half-term we have dealt with the following absences as a result of Covid-19 in school:

Positive Cases	
Year 7 pupil	1
Year 8 pupil	1
Year 10 pupils	3
Year 11 pupils	2

Teacher	1
Catering Staff	4
Total	**12**

This has led to over 195 pupils having to self-isolate. In addition, we have seen 15 teachers self-isolate and 12 members of our admin and support staff.

We are sharing this information with you to be transparent in our working. The school does have real concerns for the next half-term if locally and nationally, Covid-19 cases escalate.

To date, we have endeavoured to make phone calls home directly to all families if their child has been told they are required to self-isolate. Today, this has not been possible as it involves nearly 100 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The school has used a text message. As we move into the next half-term if we see increased numbers of pupils having to self-isolate, this may have to be the method of communication. Not ideal, but practical.

Free School Meals: At this time of year, we both remind and encourage families to check and see if they are eligible for free school meals. This has both the important benefit of supporting pupils and families, and less so, the school's budget income. Do please check the Wakefield website on: https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals

Thank you, again, for your continued support and feedback through these demanding times. The school will provide families with an end of term update at the end of the week.

Very best wishes,

T Griffiths
Headteacher

As a school, we all need to:

- Clean our hands more often using soap and water as well as the hand sanitiser found in all classrooms and social spaces.
- Have good respiratory hygiene habits: **'Catch it, bin it, kill it'**. Use the tissues and bins provided.
- Follow the year group 'bubble' systems and stay in your dedicated areas as required.
- Not enter the 2-metre teaching areas as marked out in classrooms during lessons.
- Use the year group specific entrance/exit to enter and leave school.
- Follow instructions from all adults quickly and sensibly.
- Not attend school and follow public health advice if we have any symptoms of coronavirus.