

07 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

May I begin by wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

As you will be aware, Harrytown was one of a few Stockport schools who returned on Tuesday and so we have had a bit of a head start in testing and seeing how the land lies in terms of Covid cases.

The good news is that currently the number of positive cases amongst our consenting pupils has been relatively low.

Unfortunately, staff absence due to Covid has been notably higher.

It is really important that everyone who is able to wear a mask does so in school. The DfE is advising that staff, adult visitors and pupils in Year 7 and above should wear face coverings in communal areas and when moving around the premises inside, unless they are exempt. Additionally, as from 04 January, it has been recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in Year 7 and above are being educated. The government has said this is only short-term advice and will be in place until 26 January when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point the advice will be reviewed.

This is not something that any of us find comfortable or desirable but it is what we are being asked to do in order to play our part in reducing the impact of Covid-19.

Over the last three days a number of school staff (around 15%) have been absent from school - the impact of this on our organisation has been manageable thus far due to pupils' phased return to school. Today is the first day of all pupils in school together. We are just about managing to cover all the classes using agency supply staff alongside school staff, and our aim is to continue to follow this routine over the coming days/weeks.

There may however come a point where staff absence and the lack of availability of agency supply staff mean that we are unable to provide a full in-school offer to all students. The purpose of this letter is to give you forewarning of what we will do in such an instance to help you be best prepared.

- Ideally, we would inform our families the day prior, if we are to close school to any year groups. Making the decision on the day would be a last resort.
- The wellbeing and education of all year groups is important, but we would need to carefully consider which year groups we would need to prioritise to be in school for face-to-face learning. Our current thinking is that in the case of a year group having to learn remotely at home, Year 9 would be the first, followed by Year 8 then, Year 10.
- On their first day learning remotely at home, pupils would be expected to log on to MSTeams and attend a live form with their tutor where their attendance to remote learning will be registered. Pupils would then work independently on the work set via Satchel:One. (unless their teacher/form tutor is absent).

*'I have come that they have life and have it to the full'* John 10:10

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- Pupils have already had the information relating to how to log onto the systems, but should they be experiencing problems then they should contact school using the 'Contact Us' on the school website.

- If the remote learning is longer than one day, the same process will be followed (unless their teacher/form tutor is absent).

I sincerely hope that we will not need to take any of the above steps and that we can continue to provide a great education and a safe learning environment for your children in school. Nonetheless, I feel that timely and transparent communication to parents and carers helps to keep you informed of the challenges our school is facing and the steps we may need to take.

Yours sincerely,

*Mr. K. Turmeau.*

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