



Tuesday, 12 January 2021

National Lockdown Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last few days, you will have seen the news around schools struggling with capacity issues across the nation. There has been a significant increase in COVID-19 rates in York, particularly in the Westfield, Chapelfields and Foxwood ward. So, I am writing to you today with a strong message:

Please keep your children at home, where possible. If you are able to maintain a safe bubble, even as a key worker, you should.

I have to consider the welfare of everyone in school and that includes my staff. We have all worked hard to make the school as safe as possible but this is becoming more difficult.

We currently have 170 children attending school and this is not sustainable. We need to reduce this. We need to decrease the size of the bubbles to make the school a safer place. So what we want parents and carers to consider is:

- If you absolutely need a key worker place, your child has an Education Health Care Plan or your family are working with Children's Social Care, we are here for you.
- If you are able to keep your children at home, you should. If you are able to maintain a safe bubble, even if you are a key worker, you should.
- As per the new guidance, we have offered places to a number of children who would struggle with accessing remote education. I am now asking you, where possible, to keep your children at home.
- Those who are worrying about home learning, please don't. We know remote learning is hard but this horrendous virus is more concerning than anything at this time. We can work through any remote learning challenges together.
- We have put many measures in place to support families that may need help with technology and I am pleased that this is already working well.

If we don't reduce the number of children coming to school, and we end up with staff either not feeling safe so unable to work or catching COVID-19, we will have a problem. This would result in the school needing to close bubbles which has an impact on everyone. Closing bubbles is not a step we want to take but it could come to this.

Please note that to protect our children the school gates are locked between the hours of 8.30am and 9.05am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. If you are travelling to school by car during these times, please be aware that you could be locked in the school car park. Please find alternative parking outside the school gates, if required.



Through our mutual trust and respect, we have overcome so much during the past ten months. The reality is, this virus is spreading at an enhanced rate within our local community, and we must do all we can to reduce transmission.

If your child is currently attending school but you are able to keep them at home, please email the office.

I firmly believe schools should remain open to children, but in a way that is safe for everyone. Whatever the guidance says, we know our school community best. I am asking you to trust me once again when I say that reducing numbers in school is the safest thing to do at this time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Lamara Taylor