

30th November 2021

Covid-19 Update for Parents and Families

Dear Parents

Considering recent government announcements, along with Public Health England advice, I wanted to write to you to update you on the position we find ourselves in.

All academies in our Trust are feeling the impact of Covid-19 with high numbers of infection. Many of our schools have reached 'Outbreak' status and are following specific, individual advice from Public Health England.

We are being challenged with high levels of staff absence due to Covid -19 and this is impacting on daily life in school. We are trying to keep things as normal as possible. We are seeing staff affected by long Covid and we have staff being hospitalised, it is a horrendous situation. Because of this, I am sure you are noticing some things might be different or that different adults are working with your child. I would like to reassure you that all staff are doing all that they can to keep things as normal as possible; everyone is focused on minimising disruption to the children.

On Sunday, the government announced that masks would return in schools. We would like your support in returning to wearing masks when you are dropping children off or picking them up. Some of our schools have more than 30% of the children with Covid-19 and we ask you to take this very simple action to keep us all safe.

Many parents have been asking about Christmas events. Your child's Head of Academy will let you know the plans for individual schools. However, we have been advised by Public Health England to minimise mixing and gatherings. Heads have been risk assessing events and it may be that you find Christmas events are virtual. This will be based on the Public Health guidance in the Southwest. I know that you will support any decisions made and I thank you in advance for that support.

We are checking updates daily and if any changes are required, we will inform you as soon as possible

Finally, if you suspect that your child is experiencing symptoms or if they have a positive Lateral Flow test, please can you take them for a PCR test. Throughout this pandemic you have been amazing and worked together to minimise the spread in our schools. By working together, wearing masks and getting tested we will keep each other safe so that the children can all enjoy their Christmas break.

Please keep checking your child's academy parent app and website for letters and updates.

Thank you



Tracey Cleverly
Trust Lead