

22nd October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with some urgent updates about the Covid situation in Slough which will now impact on the school from after half term and a reminder of the vaccination programme after half term.

Urgent Information regarding Coronavirus

As you will be aware in recent weeks there has been a rapid acceleration of positive Covid cases in Slough. Particularly in the secondary school age group. We have seen our numbers steadily increasing since the start of term and this has increased this week. From Monday through to the end of Wednesday 16 positive cases of Covid were identified in the school, taking our overall total since September to 44. The school does not currently meet the threshold for enhanced restrictions because there is little evidence that transmission so far has taken place in school, however East Berkshire Public Health have asked all schools in Slough to restart preventative measures after half term to last until Christmas but I can review this at any time.

I also believe this is the right thing to do in order to keep as many children in school as possible during these difficult times and therefore I have enhanced this further. I also feel that these preventative measures will assist us in still trying to create a positive learning environment and assisting staff absence rates as we head towards winter.

From Monday 1st November

- The reintroduction of face mask wearing inside buildings at all times, unless exempt. We know this works from our experience last June. Many students and staff have continued to wear masks throughout this term. Masks do not have to be worn outside or by anyone exempt from doing so. A significant drop in numbers both in school and in Slough could lead to this changing. I will review this regularly. Whilst I understand that this will be disappointing anything that can be done to keep the majority of children in school and learning is appropriate.
- We will be encouraging less social mixing. Our existing lunchtime arrangements are assisting in this already. Assemblies for the time being will be minimal and confined to the Sports Hall if one is absolutely necessary to go ahead.
- No school events will be held. This means the additional Year 10 parents' evening scheduled for 2nd November will now not take place. Instead tutors will be calling parents during the first week back. We have scheduled Year 11, 12 and 13 parents' evenings towards the end of term. I will review whether these can go ahead nearer the time.
- Parents should telephone the school instead of visiting wherever possible.

However, the most important thing you need to do is **not send your child to school if they have symptoms**. Thank you to parents that are doing this. In addition, you should now also follow this guidance until further notice.

Any child who has a household member test positive for COVID-19 should take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to **taking a one-off PCR test**. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing.

Any child or member of staff who is identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace should take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to **taking a one-off PCR test**. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those aged under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing.

In all other cases please continue to test your child twice a week using lateral flow tests, unless they have symptoms which means a PCR test should be arranged.

Covid Vaccinations

Further to my letter dated 15th October the government is rolling out its vaccination programme for 12-15-year olds. **This is taking place on Tuesday 2nd November.**

On our school website, in both the News section (letters to parents) and the Covid 19 section you will find a copy of a letter form PHE and the following guides:

- Covid-19 vaccination Parent Information Pack
- Covid-19 vaccination a guide for young people and children
- What to expect after you Covid-19 vaccination, Advice for children and young people

These explain how to book your child's Covid Vaccination and provide consent. This is voluntary. This is only aimed at students who on the 2nd November are aged over 12 and under 16 years of age.

Students over 16 can still get a vaccine through the national booking system. This has now been extended to all eligible students between 12-16 during Half Term via the National Booking system. A letter is also enclosed.

Whilst the school will be facilitating the Covid vaccinations, as we do for many other types, I would like to remind the school community that school staff themselves are not involved in the process of administering vaccines, promoting uptake of the vaccine or making any decision about whether a child is or is not capable of making a decision to have the vaccine themselves. This is a decision for both the parent and child and should be discussed at home. Should the decision be made to have the vaccine then a parental consent form must be completed in order to make the day run smoothly.

Flu Vaccination

The School Immunisation Team have also informed me they will also be holding Flu vaccinations again on the 2nd November. Should you wish your child to be vaccinated please also complete the consent form on our website. Located in the same areas as the Covid forms.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher