

Dear Parents

**Re: COVID rates in the Bath and NE Somerset and North Somerset areas**

You will be aware that there has been a very sharp increase in the number of COVID cases in our area and that this has been particularly concentrated in the school population. (also see additional information sent from BANES) I thought that you might welcome an update on the current approach in our school and across our Trust.

We work in partnership with Bath and North East Somerset's Health Protection Teams. Within the Trust we also have a clear escalation process for increasing our safety controls.

1. Reducing or cancelling large events, such as assemblies.
2. Reintroducing social distancing between adults and between adults and children.
3. Considering use of masks for adults and increasing the frequency of asymptomatic testing to daily rather than weekly.
4. Reducing the numbers of visitors coming on to the school site.
5. Reintroducing a full bubble system for a particular class or cohort.
6. Reintroducing a full bubble system across the school.
7. Moving to Remote Learning for a class/cohort with provision for Key Workers' Children and Vulnerable Learners.
8. Moving to Remote Learning for the whole school with provision for Key Workers' Children and Vulnerable Learners.

During the last week of term, we increased our safety controls to include elements of steps 1-3 and where possible, also reduced opportunities for the children to mix indoors. We intend to continue with these additional controls for at least the first week of term.

Given that we have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases in school, we are also asking that you remain particularly vigilant with regards to looking out for symptoms and always get a PCR test if a child is showing symptoms. If someone tests positive in a household, it is now recommended that all members of the household take a DAILY lateral flow test (including primary aged children)

At school we will continue to reinforce handwashing / sanitisation, 'catch-it, bin-it, kill-it' etc. with all children, frequently clean frequently touched surfaces, shared equipment etc. and encourage enhanced ventilation.

The autumn half-term should provide a welcome respite and firebreak to reduce the levels of COVID in schools.

We will be open again on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and will review our restrictions in force to ensure that we take the right steps at the right time to manage cases and provide as normal a school experience as is possible for all pupils.

With best wishes,

Ian Harvey

Headteacher