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### **Autumn Term Update 7**

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you all continue to be well. It is clear that over the last few weeks we are seeing a rise in the number of positive Covid cases linked to families of our pupils. This is meaning that more children are needing to self-isolate for 14 days.

It is vitally important that you let us know as soon as you can if someone in your household or another close contact of your child has developed symptoms. Your child must then self-isolate immediately and a test on the person with symptoms must be carried out. If the result comes back negative then your child can return to school, if positive your child must self-isolate for 14 days from when the person's symptoms first developed. Self-isolation means they cannot leave the house for any reason.

Please see the end of this letter for the latest statement from Cumbria County Council on infection rates.

It is important that we all continue to follow the guidelines and remember the Hands, Face, Space rule. This is something we are going over with the children in school.

The government released updated guidance for schools on Wednesday night. There aren't many changes for us to implement but we have reviewed our risk assessment in relation to the wearing of face coverings by adults in certain situations during the school day. Adults are now wearing masks where it is difficult to keep a 2m social distance from other adults e.g. lunchtime supervisors in the corridors and hall, staff and visitors in meetings. Unfortunately, the guidance states that we must not put on any after school clubs that are additional to our Wrap Around Care. This means the Multi Sports Club for Y5 has had to be cancelled. No further after school clubs will be organised until the guidance changes.

Please can I ask that you continue to be mindful of others when you collect your child and that you strictly adhere to the 2m social distancing rule. Please feel free to wear a face covering if you would like to but at the moment we are not making this compulsory as we



feel there is enough room for everyone to maintain social distance within the school grounds- we are fortunate that we have quite a lot of space to spread out. We are fully prepared for a possible increase in positive cases over the coming weeks and have plans in place to support the children if their class or year group bubble needs to self-isolate.

Please can I also just remind everyone that if you need another parent or adult to collect your child this must now always be the same person.

The government guidance states that parents can form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare where the child is 13 or under. A childcare bubble is where someone in one household provides informal (unpaid and unregistered) childcare to a child aged 13 or under in another household. This might be a relative or a close friend and parents can only form one childcare bubble. In other words, the bubble must always be between the same two households. This means that, if you enlist the help of grandparents, it must be the same set of grandparents who cares for your child each time. The rule has been brought in to support parents who might not be able to find adequate childcare within their household.

We are continuing to do everything we can to ensure all members of the school community are as safe and well as possible. This is a very challenging time for everyone and we are trying to keep school running as normally as possible but there may well be disruption to deal with over the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support.

Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost  
Headteacher

#### *Latest news release from Cumbria County Council:*

*As England starts a new period of national lockdown, latest data for the week ending 30 October shows the number of new COVID-19 infections continuing to rise in Cumbria, but with variation across the county's six districts.*

*While Barrow and Carlisle remained the districts with the highest infection rates, both saw their rates drop. Barrow remains above the England average and Carlisle just below.*

*By contrast Allerdale, Copeland and South Lakeland all saw significant increases in their rates, though all remain well below the England average.*

The weekly COVID-19 situation report can be found at [www.cumbria.gov.uk/stopthespread](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/stopthespread)



*For the 3rd week in a row, the 45-59 age group accounted for the greatest number of new cases in Cumbria. Cases among the over 60s also continued to rise, with the infection rate for this age group now just below the England average (155/100,000 v 161/100,000).*

*The number of patients with COVID-19 in hospitals beds across Cumbria's two NHS Trusts rose to 159 on the 2nd of November (this includes the Royal Lancaster Infirmary which also takes patients from South Cumbria).*

*Registrars data shows a further 11 people died as a result of COVID-19.*