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Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Thank you so much to you all for continuing to work with us to keep our school community safe during this national pandemic. Everyone has been really supportive in not sending children in if they are displaying symptoms and getting tested if they need to.

There are an increasing number of cases of COVID 19 in schools in Hereford so I wanted to reassure you that we are taking our precautions seriously by sanitizing regularly, asking pupils to wash their hands and wearing face coverings on buses wherever possible. Adults always wear face coverings on the buses and we encourage all pupils over 11 years to do the same. We ventilate classrooms and have rearranged our seating, plus we are limiting our educational visits to local sites only. We have upped our cleaning regime; we empty bins twice daily and make sure we wipe down tables/ chairs in between classes.

Because of the size of our school and our daily use of buses we are not able, unlike many mainstream schools, to provide year group bubbles – the transport is based on locality and includes pupils from all phases and classes. Although all staff and our older pupils wear masks, this is an enclosed space and is therefore defined as 'close contact' by the guidance.

I would like to remind you therefore that our policy is that if we do have a confirmed positive case when the child affected has attended school in the 48 hours before developing symptoms, the likelihood is that a significant proportion of the school may have to self-isolate for 14 days.

This will enable us to commission a deep clean and to make sure that there is a limited chance of transmission. In some cases, (where a child is transported individually) we may be able to close one area of school e.g. Arrow building, Secondary Department or Primary Department. Staff do move across sites but we are mindful of good hygiene and maintaining distance where we can.

No other members of your household will have to isolate unless your child gets symptoms themselves.

In all cases of a confirmed positive result, however, we shall work with the Local Authority Public Health England representative to risk assess the situation.

If we do need to self-isolate, we shall send home work activities via either SeeSaw or MS Teams. We can also email work or provide offline work if that is preferred (please let us know).

Best wishes

Michelle Parkes
Headteacher