



1 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Here is the latest update on our Covid situation.

We have continued to have around 10 confirmed cases per day over the last week but there are now early signs the Covid wave is possibly peaking so to provide further safety to students and staff we are going to move to face masks in classrooms from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October (except where students are exempt).

This will last 2 weeks initially and we hope that by the last week of the half term (w/b 18 October) the situation should be a lot better so we can move back to face masks just in corridors.

We would be grateful if you could please ensure that students bring a mask or face covering with them to school each day, unless they are exempt.

Feedback we are getting from other local schools is that this Covid wave is widespread and it will be interesting to see the national absence figures for the last couple of weeks when they are finally published. Judging by the UK Covid infections map, I think there will be very high absence rates across the country.

Whilst we are not medical experts and so can't guarantee it, the one positive aspect of the last couple of weeks is the level of natural immunity in our school may now become quite high, possibly limiting the chance of another big Covid wave later in the year. It is important to stay optimistic!

Another point we are finding is that many students are currently absent with non Covid illnesses. There does seem to be a more general winter bug around with symptoms similar to Covid so please keep up the twice-weekly lateral flow tests.

Our best wishes go out to all the students and their families who are currently ill and we hope you feel better soon. Don't forget, there is plenty of work online in Google Classroom for those students who are absent but are able to continue with their studies.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nick Goforth'.

Nick Goforth, Headteacher