



26th February 2021

Dear all

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister I am writing to you to update you on the situation at Newman and the planning for the next few weeks. I hope you and your family have coped over the past few weeks. It has been an eventful half term with the Covid situation, lockdown and snow and ice mixed in.

We have continued to welcome just short of 50% of pupils in school and an almost full complement of staff in the past half term. Our staff have undertaken home learning with those of your children working from home, sending out packs where required. As you will all know we have been making sure we are in regular contact with you and the relevant agencies as well as the teaching and learning for the pupils in school. We are looking forward to welcoming children back in increasing numbers after March 8th. If you have any concerns about returning after the 8th please get in touch with the school.

We are continuing to use the Lateral Flow tests for staff. These tests will reduce the likelihood of asymptomatic staff attending school. I do expect though that following March 8th increasing attendance in mainstream schools will raise the infection rates. We saw this in September and following the Christmas holiday. The consequence of this for Newman School will likely be some impact in school such as the closing of bubbles in the week or so before the Easter holiday and in the weeks afterwards. It is possible that we will avoid this, or that we may be able to reduce the impact of any infections by some short term measures, but it is also possible I will have to send pupils home for 10 days to self-isolate. As always I will make sure that you are kept in touch as early as possible and I thank-you for your continuing support. We will deal with any positive tests in the appropriate way following government and PHE Guidance and procedures.

We have no plans to test pupils and we recognise the difficulties in the testing process for many of the pupils but we do advise using the test centres or ringing your GP. Please do get in touch with school if you want to discuss this situation.

As ever we ask you to keep up to date with school announcements by looking regularly on the Website and Facebook, as we are in a rapidly changing situation with Covid-19. We will also use the text to parents to ensure you are notified of any possible changes we will have to implement at short notice.



If you go to the website/Facebook page there is the opportunity to take part in a survey of home working. The aim of the survey is to provide constructive and informative feedback to teachers on the remote learning that they are providing. We will be facing an Ofsted inspection in the future and we would like your feedback about how the school has supported you and your child since last March to ensure we respond to any difficulties or that we have done well in meeting needs.

As well as us the local authority are also asking for you to complete a survey. The feedback you give will be used to develop and improve services, based on what matters to you. POET is your opportunity to provide your views on what is working and what isn't working and play an important part in shaping the future experiences of families. This information is also on our website and Facebook page

<https://puttingpeoplefirst.limeask.com/968245>

There is much we can begin to look forward to; we do have the vaccine roll out, and infection rates are much lower than previously, although still high. We have had much better weather and we now have the road map out of the lockdown. I would still ask you to please remain cautious though, maintain the social distancing and hand washing and we will look forward to June 21st and an end to the restrictions. Until then we must continue to follow the guidelines.

Take care and keep safe.

Paul Silvester