

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we are now in the season of Advent and are preparing for Christmas, I want to thank you for your support this term. It has been a challenging time for all in our school community and we are hoping that being able to spend Christmas with our families will bring some joy in these difficult times. The news of a vaccine being approved is excellent news and gives us hope for the future.

The national restrictions, which ended today, have reduced the infection rate across Greater Manchester, but the number of cases in the community remains high. Details regarding the Tier 3 restrictions in place from today can be found [here](#) and a summary is attached. It is important that we all follow these rules if we are to continue to reduce the number of positive cases.

As a school, we sincerely hope that nobody in our community needs to isolate over the Christmas period and we have a robust system of controls in place. In order for these to be most effective, we are asking for your support in reinforcing the need for these in school and continuing them outside of school. Your support with the following measures will greatly help prevent the spread of the virus and reduce the risk of anyone needing to isolate over Christmas:

1. **Those who have Coronavirus symptoms should not attend school.** The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the recent onset of:
  - new continuous cough and/or
  - high temperature and/or
  - a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
2. **Use a face covering.** These are compulsory in corridors, communal areas, on public transport and in shops, unless exempt. Students should have a clean reusable, or new disposable, face covering with them each day. School should only be expected to provide these in emergencies.
3. **Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.** The entrances to school, canteen and each classroom have hand sanitizer for students to use. Sinks are available to wash hands in the toilet areas. Students should also use the sanitizer in shops and on public transport, or have their own supply with them.
4. **Ensure good respiratory hygiene.** Follow the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach and always have a tissue to hand if needed.
5. **Minimise contact between individuals.** Students are in consistent groups in school and must follow the Tier 3 guidance in the community. This means that outside school they must **not** meet socially indoors, or in most outdoor places, with anybody they do not live with, even if they spend time with them in school.
6. **Maintain social distancing wherever possible.** This is encouraged in school but is not always possible in the class or 'bubble'. In school, different year groups are kept separate to minimise transmission. Outside of school, maintaining social distancing will significantly reduce the risk catching or spreading the virus.

Each positive case in our school community impacts on a large number of others who have been in close contact and therefore need to isolate. If we all want to enjoy Christmas with our families, it is important that we work together to continue to reduce the number of positive cases.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Mr A Bridson

Headteacher