

HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL

We care, we learn, we belong

Headteacher: Mrs J Driscoll

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28 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have been back in school now for nearly three weeks, we thought it prudent to send a joint letter from both the Infant and Junior Schools regarding the way forward.

We have been asked a number of questions recently from families who are, understandably, keen to "get back to normal". Some are curious to know when we might start up after school clubs again, while others want to know when we are going to change the staggered start and finish times for the school day. We have also been asked when the children might be able to play with other classes outside of their bubbles.

All of these queries are valid, hence we have decided to write to you and confirm that we have no plans to make any changes before the May half term at the earliest. The next two stages of the roadmap are due to be reviewed on 17th May and then 21st June, but there are currently no plans by the Government to change how schools are operating (that we are aware of) .The current guidance was updated on 6th April with minor amendments but the core messages remain the same:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schoolscoronavirus-covid-19-operational-guidance

While we appreciate that the above may be frustrating for some of you, we are sure that you will understand that we are following these measures in order to keep you, your children, our staff, and wider school community safe. Many of you will have been fortunate enough to have received at least your first vaccination, however, many of the younger members of our community – parents and teaching staff - have not and we have to do all we can to reduce the risk for everyone. We know that children are returning to outdoor sports and activities and people are allowed to meet six people outside for dining and drinks, but we have a duty of care to do all we can to keep everyone as Covid-safe as possible. Furthermore, it is noting that there have been positive cases in local schools recently, resulting in classes and year groups closing to self-isolate. A positive case in one class will have ramifications wider than the children, their families and the teaching staff in that class. The virus and its variants are still here and now is not the time to become complacent.

Staff are still using lateral flow tests twice per week and we know that many families have also taken up the offer to access these kits at home too. Please remember that if you, or any member of your family tests positive using a LFT, then a confirmatory PCR test must be booked and the household must isolate until the result of the test is known.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this difficult time. We will, of course, keep you updated to any changes to Government guidance and therefore our procedures in school.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Yours sincerely

Jane DriscollTracey KendrickHursthead Infant SchoolHursthead Junior School