

12th November 2021

Dear Families,

I am writing to update you regarding yesterday's meeting of Public Health Somerset regarding Somerset schools and COVID 19 cases.

They have requested that schools continue in Amber status until the end of November. They said,

'Whilst infection rates are declining in some parts of the county overall our rates remain high; our local rates remain significantly higher than the England rate. Based on the risk assessment, we are advising all schools to keep in place the previously recommended measures until the end of November 2021.'

At present, attendance figures at Brookside are currently no different than they would have been before the pandemic at this time of year – we monitor this daily for changes and thank you for your continued vigilance with ill health. We also know from taking our own regular Co2 readings that classrooms are very well ventilated and Co2 readings are good.

Therefore, in light of Public Health Somerset's extension of Amber status, we will continue with the measures set out in my last letter:

- That we follow and promote up to date guidance on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of Covid-19.
- That we continue to work with test and trace and Public Health England acting on their advice.
- That we maintain cleaning regimes and reintroduce focused cleaning of high use areas during the day.
- That we keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- That we use appropriate PPE when dealing with a potential infection outbreak.

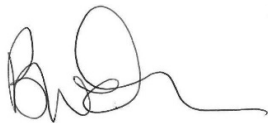
On top of this we will also continue to:

- Suspend assemblies until further notice.
- Ensure that lunch times continue to be staggered and year groups given distinct seating areas.
- Ask that Staff wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas.
- Ask that any close contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 identified by NHS Test & Trace book a PCR test and whilst awaiting test results, undertake a daily LFD test and only attend school if this is negative. The daily LFD testing is at the parent or guardian's discretion for primary age children.
- Continue to ask that parents/carers wear face coverings when on the Academy site.

Year 6 swimming will also continue to be suspended and we hope to just carry on with it when we return to swimming.

We are currently awaiting specific advice for events around the festive period. We will, of course, share this with you when it is published, but if I am honest I do not see this as the right time to bring large groups of people together on site for Christmas productions. We also know from our own Co2 measurements and national data that singing in large groups increases the risk of infection. We are currently managing levels of infection as well as we can and we do not want to add any additional pressure to this over Christmas where we know families look forward to coming together. Therefore, in the very likely case of performances being suspended, we will make sure that children in their individual classes have a really festive last two weeks of term with the aim that we all stay fit and well over the Christmas break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Walton