



22 October 21

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the past week COVID-19 cases in North Somerset, and our School, have risen significantly. We currently have over 130 positive COVID-19 cases, across all year groups, and I am aware that this is very concerning for many of our parents.

I am writing to you today to update you on mitigations we will have in place from Term 2 to respond to this increase as well as some other updates relating to the ongoing pandemic.

Term 2 Mitigations

From Monday 1 November we will be **reintroducing mask wearing** in indoor communal spaces and during large gatherings of people for all staff and students.

This means that your child needs to bring a face covering with them to school to wear in all indoor communal spaces including: canteens (except when immediately eating or drinking), common rooms, corridors, toilets, the Library, Reception etc. and during assembly.

Students attending indoor, mixed year group, after school clubs will be required to wear a mask at these sessions as well.

At the moment masks are not required in classrooms, but students are welcome to wear a mask if this makes them feel more comfortable.

We do have an exemption list if your child is unable to wear a mask for medical reasons. If your child was previously on this list, and they still have their badge, this arrangement for them will still be in place. Please contact Student Services if your child needs to be added to the exemption list.

The following mitigations (which have been in place since September) will also remain:

- Ventilation across the school site (windows and doors are open to encourage flow of air)
- Good hand hygiene; students to use hand sanitiser while entering and leaving rooms. Regular hand washing, especially before eating, is encouraged.
- Regular at home testing is very important to help identify those who are asymptomatic (see below for more information on this)
- Masks must be worn on home-to-school transport and are strongly recommended for those who travel to school by public transport.
- Masks can be worn in classrooms should your child wish, as mentioned above.
- Finally please DO NOT send your child into school if they are suffering from ANY symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, loss of taste or smell, continuous cough).

It is imperative all those on the school site follow these mitigations to try and keep everyone as safe as possible.

We will also be reducing visitors to the school site. Please do not visit the school site if you do not have an appointment; staff will organise telephone meetings with parents if required. Also please avoid dropping off forgotten items, unless they are truly essential. We will also be releasing recordings to replace Parents Information Evenings.

Regular at-home testing

At-home testing remains very important to keep the wider community as safe as possible. The identification of asymptomatic cases helps prevent the spread.

All students are strongly encouraged to continue to test twice a week throughout the half term holiday. Testing on the Sunday evening, before returning to school on Monday 1 November is particularly important.

Please try and remember to log at-home testing results with both the School and the NHS. Guidance on how to do this can be [found here](#).

If you require additional test kits over the holiday these [can be ordered](#) from local pharmacies and testing centres or pupils can collect boxes from Reception during term time.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

We understand that NHS England will soon be opening an additional offer for 12 to 15 year olds to get their COVID-19 vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. This offer will run in parallel to the in-school vaccination programme. Parents of children aged 12 to 15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme shortly, including information about how to book an appointment out of school, if this option is preferred.

The school is still awaiting confirmation from the School Nursing Service regarding the offer of COVID-19 vaccinations here at school. We believe this will be in the first few weeks of Term 2; when we know more we will update you all.

Please be assured that we are regularly reviewing the situation, and are in regular contact with Public Health England. Should we need to introduce further mitigations we will be in touch with you all. Equally should cases reduce we will review our Risk Assessment again and update students and parents.

Kind regards



Mr J Nunes
Headteacher