

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to let you know that, due to an increased number of positive LFT and PCR tests in Beacon Hill that we are returning to our Contingency Plan to help ensure we keep everyone as safe as possible.

With effect from yesterday, we increased the measures in school as case numbers have risen rapidly. We are conducting LFT tests in school for all students this morning, and will continue to conduct tests next week, on Monday and further days as required. Students and staff are required to wear masks at all times, including in classrooms and communal areas. Masks need not be worn outside, or while eating.

We have also put in place measures to reduce the times where students come into contact with other year groups, and are encouraging students to socially distance when moving around school.

Students should continue to test at home twice a week, and report any positive results to school. Isolation rules have also changed in Cumbria, with siblings of children with positive tests being asked to self-isolate along with their sibling, or to take daily LFT tests, and to take a PCR test 5 days following the first positive test in the household. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our students and staff safe.

#### General advice

- Please be vigilant in looking out for symptoms of COVID-19 in your child, however mild (a high temperature of 37.8°C or above, a new continuous cough and / or change to sense of taste and smell).

If your child develops any of these symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for them to get a PCR test. You can book a PCR test online [here](#). If you do not have access to the internet, please call 119. The quickest way to get a test is by booking to attend a Local Testing Site, however you can also arrange for a test kit to be sent to your home address. Some PCR tests are available in school if obtaining a postal test kit will delay receiving results – contact us if you need one.

- Please encourage your child to wash their hands regularly for at least 20 seconds and use tissues for sneezes and runny noses. We have increased ventilation in classrooms and other indoor spaces, so please ensure your child brings suitable warm uniform with them to school
- Now that we are experiencing the usual winter coughs and colds, please be aware that if a child presents at school with a new cough we are very likely to send them home for a PCR test. We are not qualified to assess whether a cough is due to a cold or Covid. A LFT test is not sufficient when potential Covid symptoms are present – including a cough.

We know this can be an anxious time for parents / carers, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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